

Hafa Adai!

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'FAA, NTSB now probing Saipan crash'

By BEA CABRERA
bea.cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The plane crash that happened late afternoon on Monday at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, which injured its pilot and a female passenger, is now under investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board.

According to Commonwealth Ports Authority deputy director Edward B. Mendiola, CPA provided a complete report filled with information and photos to the FAA and NTSB after the investigation done by the airline company, Star Marianas Airlines.

"FAA and NTSB have received the report and we were told they will look at it and,

See FAA on Page 4

'Unfair attack against Torres family'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A brother of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said over the weekend that the governor had no involvement with the land lease agreement with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, contrary to what a magazine article suggests.

In a *Bloomberg Businessweek* story titled, "A Chinese Casino Has Conquered a Piece of America," it alleged that Vincent D. Torres, one of the governor's brothers at the Torres Brothers law firm, allegedly got a highly profitable return in a land lease agreement with IPI.

"...One such entity bought a land lease from Torres' sister-in-law, Rowina, for \$667,000. She almost quadrupled her investment, having purchased the land about five months earlier

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500 Sails christens refurbished canoe

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 500 Sails organization renamed last weekend the *Roberta L* vessel after a great

chief, *Ladahao*, from the ancient Chamorro village of Alaian or Araiao

During the Lunar New Year Festival last weekend, the or-

See 500 on Page 4



MARK RABAGO

500 Sails' refurbished canoe *Ladahao* at the Garapan Fishing Base during this weekend's Lunar New Year Party. The organization renamed the former *Roberta L* after the great chief from the ancient Chamorro village of Alaian or Araiao.



"This house has dual purposes: a canoe and eventually a classroom where traditional crafts and artistry will be taught and will be open to the community," said John Castro, program coordinator for the Seafaring Tradition Program of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

BEA CABRERA

Traditional canoe house to stand in Susupe

By BEA CABRERA
bea.cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is building a traditional canoe

house fronting the ocean in Susupe as part of its Seafaring Traditions Program.

According to John Castro, program coordinator of the Seafaring Traditions Program,

the structure being built in Susupe does not stop at a traditional canoe house.

Ultimately, it's going to turn into a classroom that will teach traditional knowledge

like basket weaving and other Chamorro artistry that deals with the cultural lifestyle of the island, he said.

In building the canoe house, Castro said that they are making all efforts to be as tradi-

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NATION

President Trump revives push for limits on immigrants bringing in their family.

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ASIA

The risks of armed conflict have risen in the disputed South China Sea.

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LIFE & STYLE

Letitia Wright still can't believe she made a star-making turn in the "Black Panther."

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Local

House OKs Senate changes to appropriation bill

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives accepted last Friday the changes that the Senate made on the over \$24-million supplemental appropriation bill for fiscal year 2017.

House Bill 20-147, authored by Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), had been extensively amended on the Senate floor and was accepted by the House.

H.B. 20-147 would allocate over \$24 million to several government agencies, with the Public School System receiving over \$11.85 million more.

The \$24 million is derived from the Special Casino Gross Revenue Tax and is separate from the general fund.

The Senate amendments included a large reduction of funding allocated to the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, from \$500,000 to \$420,000. Sen.

Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) set aside \$30,000 and \$50,000, respectively and took the same amounts from the Office of Planning and Development and allocated it elsewhere, reducing the allocation of the office from \$500,000 to \$420,000 as well.

Hofschneider allocated the \$30,000 from DCCA as well as an additional \$30,000 allocated to the Office of Planning and Development to the De-

partment of Lands and Natural Resources to implement infestation prevention measures for Tinian, Saipan, and the rest of the Northern Islands.

Igisomar, on the other hand, reallocated \$50,000 from DCCA as well as an additional \$50,000 from the Office of Planning and Development to the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

Hofschneider also moved \$878,000 from the PSS allocation to the Tinian Elementary School parking lot renova-

tions, as well as bumping up land compensation judgment obligations to the *Manglona v CNMI* judgment, from \$1 million to \$4 million.

Hofschneider noted that, while PSS has the federal funds for the project and after consulting the Board of Education, it was in the best interest of PSS to allocate the federal funds reserved for that project elsewhere.

In a previous interview with *Saipan Tribune*, DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter said that he is very grateful to the Legislature and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for supporting the funding.

Hunter noted that enacting H.B. 20-147 would mean the first time that local funding would go to childcare assistance.

"This assistance is critical to assisting working people, as one of the greatest difficulties noted is childcare. These funds will be used to assist those who fall within a particular income threshold, who are full-time employees or full-time students," he said.

"We have been charged by the administration to do everything we can to assist our people get into the workforce and stay in the workforce. This is one of the tools to help make that happen. We will be publishing information in the coming weeks related to the process for applying for this child care assistance," he added.

H.B. 20-147, HS1, HD1, SD4 now heads to Torres for review and enactment.

Trial starts in Sen. Manglona's lawsuit against his two siblings

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The bench trial in the lawsuit filed by Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) against his siblings over a piece of land on Upper Capital Hill started yesterday in the Superior Court.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom in the afternoon, attorney Samuel Mok was still cross-examining Paul Manglona's second witness, Charles A. Manglona.

Mok is counsel for defendants Priscilla M. Torres and Thomas A. Manglona.

Torres and Thomas Manglona are co-administrators of the estate of their late mother, Bernadita A. Manglona.

Torres, Thomas Manglona, and Charles Manglona, along with Associate Justice John A. Manglona, are among the senator's siblings named as defendants in the lawsuit.

Before Charles Manglona testified, attorney Mark Scoggins, counsel for Paul Manglona, called to the witness stand Prudencio A. Manglona, another sibling named as one

of the defendants.

Charles Manglona testified, among other things, that he recognized the signatures in a deed of gift as those of his mother and of Paul Manglona. Charles Manglona, however, said he did not see his mother herself sign the deed of gift.

Judge pro tem David A. Wiseman, who is presiding over the trial, earlier stated that the entire case centers on the genuineness and validity of the deeds of gift in question.

Sen. Paul Manglona is suing his siblings over the disputed 4,181-square-meter property on Upper Capital Hill.

The senator asked the court to declare him the fee simple owner of the property by virtue of a deed of gift on July 11, 1985, and that none of the defendants have any rights to do it.

In their answer to the lawsuit, Torres and Thomas Manglona, through counsel, asserted that their brother, Sen. Manglona, does not inherit entirely the disputed land as their mother's signature had been forged.

Employee owed over \$10K in wages

The CNMI Department of Labor has ordered a car rental company to pay an employee \$10,772.23 for 11 months' worth of unpaid wages.

ABO International Corp., which does business as ABO Rent-a-Car, was ordered to pay Teresita Reyes \$7,227.44 for services from September 2015 to August 2016, when Reyes quit her job.

DOL found Reyes is owed a total of \$10,772.23. She was first hired as a cleaner from 8am to 5pm. However, after a few months, she was required to come in the weekends to do work not expected of her at the time of her hiring.

Reyes believed that she is owed at least more than the agreed \$300 per month as first discussed. Her employer, referred to as Zhong, was also found to not be reliable in employee timekeeping as discovered by a DOL investigator handling the case.

Reyes held her own records of her work hours and presented it to the DOL as evidence.

In essence, Reyes was supposed to receive a payout of over \$10,772.23. However, DOL regulations only allow complainants to collect up to six months of unpaid wages.

She will receive \$7,227.44. (Erwin Encinares)

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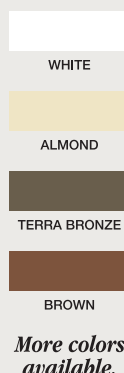
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Mayor: Tinian dependent on Murkowski-Sablan bill

TINIAN—The island is dependent on the bill that aims to extend the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Visa program, according to Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas. He said there is no alternative way to save Tinian's progress if the bill fails to pass Congress.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) introduced in the U.S. Senate earlier this year a bill to extend the CW program for 10 more years. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) introduced a similar bill in the U.S. House of Representatives the same day.

During the hearing to discuss the bill, San Nicolas represented the island of Tinian. "I was very fortunate to witness the hearing and we are happy that the bill reflects the needs of the Commonwealth," he said.

According to San Nicolas, the bill is important for Tinian because there are a few projects on the island that would require a great deal of manpower.

"Tinian is going to require heavy construction for the three

major developments so the continuation of the program is a must. It is required," he said, adding that Tinian is close to experiencing an economic boom due to investors who are interested in creating a number of industries like a new hotel casino, a ferry terminal, and an international terminal.

San Nicolas said that all he wants for Tinian is to have the capacity not just in numbers but also in skill to handle the various industries that they will soon have. "We are not there yet, so we will continue to need foreign workers to fill that gap and it's a huge gap at this point."

According to San Nicolas, he is aware that the number of CW workers will inevitably reach zero, but for the sake of Tinian's future, the island depends on the bill to be enacted.

"The plan is that, one day, it will go down to zero, but for now...we need this relief, we need the Murkowski-Sablan bill to be passed to continue the growth we are enjoying in the Commonwealth," he said. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

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House urges CPA to OK Chinese airline flights

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives unanimously supported last Friday a representative's call to urge the Commonwealth Ports Authority to approve a Chinese airline's request to fly to Saipan.

The House passed Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero's (R-Saipan) House Resolution 20-19, with amendments, to

urge CPA to approve the request for services of China Eastern Airlines to provide air transportation services between the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and the Shanghai Pudong International Airport.

Citing the recent pullout of U.S. carrier Delta Air Lines, Guerrero said through the resolution that the tourism industry as well as the overall economy would take a toll if

nothing is done about it.

Delta, which was Saipan's sole connection to Narita, Japan for 29 years, is pulling out its services to Saipan starting May 6, 2018. By losing the Narita-Saipan route, those who want to go to and from Japan must first pass through South Korea or Hong Kong.

H.R. 20-19, HD1 supports China Eastern Airlines and its request to offer regular flights

to and from Saipan.

The airline, according to the resolution, is one of China's major air transportation groups out of three and is headquartered in Shanghai. The airline holds one of the youngest fleets in the world by operating over 600 aircrafts with an average aircraft age of less than five and a half years and it offers flights regularly to the mainland U.S., such as the John F.

Kennedy International Airport in Queens, New York, the O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Illinois, the Los Angeles International Airport in Los Angeles, California, and the Honolulu International Airport in Hawaii to Shanghai, China.

"...Through their extended global network, China

Eastern Airlines is able to connect travelers to 1,052 destinations in 177 countries," states the resolution, adding that the airline's Pasadena, California office has expressed an interest in doing business in the CNMI.

Besides its economic benefits, the resolution also noted that the decision to approve the request would also affect employees of the soon-to-withdraw Delta Air Lines.

Man gets 10 years in prison for robbing woman

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man convicted of beating and robbing a woman at her hotel room in western Garapan was slapped with a 10-year prison term yesterday.

Jodan Santos Taitingfong, 25, was sentenced to 15 years in prison, all suspended except 10 years, without the possibility of parole.

Taitingfong was given credit for time served. After completing his prison term,

he will be placed on probation for five years and required to pay restitution to the victim.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio handed down the sentence.

Assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio, counsel for the government, said that, while she recommended the maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment, she believes the judge considered the goals of the criminal justice system—retribu-

tion and rehabilitation.

In this case, Tenorio said, while the defendant committed a violent crime, his age suggests he is susceptible to rehabilitation.

"I believe this is a fair and just sentence for the victim while sending the message to similar offenders that this behavior will not be tolerated in the CNMI," the prosecutor said.

The victim testified during the trial how she was hit on the head and robbed inside her

room on the third floor of Micro Beach Hotel in the early morning of July 7, 2016.

A doctor testified how the victim had severe injuries when taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

The victim's face was swollen and her mouth had wounds that required stitches. One of her front tooth was gone and two other teeth in front were damaged.

The jurors found Taitingfong guilty of robbery and aggravated assault and battery.

500

From Page 1

ganization unveiled the newly refurbished 40-foot canoe and also officially gave the vessel its Chamorro name so it can take its spot in the organization's fleet of canoes.

According to 500 Sails executive director Peter Perez, it is important that all the canoes under the organization are given Chamorro names. The vessel not only belongs to the Marianas, but will also represent the Marianas so it is only fitting that each vessel is given a Marianas-native name, he said.

The vessel will still be

called *Roberta L*, as it was named when the organization first purchased her, but the vessel will also be called *Ladachao* after one of the Marianas' great chiefs.

According to historical records Perez cited, *Ladachao* refused to bow to the oppressive Spaniards who forced the Catholic religion on the Chamorro people. He refused to accept Spain as the new ruler of the Chamorro archipelago.

Maga'lahi Ladachao led the Chamorro people in many battles against the Spaniards. They respected him for his wisdom and valor. At one point, he drove the Spaniards

back to Guahan. Don Jose de Quiroga, a brutal commander, responded by sending more reinforcements.

In 1684, a fully armed fleet of ships landed on Tanapag and a fierce battle ensued. The Chamorros showered the fleet with lances and sling stones. The Spaniards, however, responded viciously with their guns and cannons. Hundreds of Chamorros died. *Maga'lahi Ladachao*, although wounded, managed to escape to the Gani islands (the Northern Islands) to recover. He was later captured and brought to Guahan, where Quiroga swiftly ordered that *Maga'lahi Ladachao* be put to death.

Guahan recently named a 2016 Festival of Pacific Arts village house after him, along with other Chamorro heroes who resisted the Spaniards.

According to Perez, it is fitting to name the canoe after *Ladachao*, not only because of his heroism but also because he was a healer.

"Our bringing back Chamorro canoes is part of our healing process after centuries of colonial oppression, including the outlawing of Chamorro sailing canoes. We look forward to building many more canoes, both Chamorro and Carolinian, and giving them names that are thoughtful and meaningful," said Perez.

UNFAIR

From Page 1

for \$180,000. The lease documents bear the signature of her husband, Torres' eldest brother, Vincent... and that of Cai Lingli, a member of the [IPI] board," the story stated, suggesting that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres obtained his "willingness to accommodate IPI" through transactions between the company and his relatives.

Vincent Torres told *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend that the claims in the Bloomberg article were false.

"My wife and I invested in an 11,201-square-meter oceanview property. IPI wanted to lease our property for 55 years. We negotiated the price in arms-length and agreed to \$59.56 per square meters for a total of \$667,200, which was

lower than the fair market value at the time," Vincent Torres said.

Given the location and size of the property, it would easily be worth double or more today, he said.

"Our transaction was purely business and had nothing to do with any payment for favors for IPI," he said.

"Further, Governor Torres had no involvement whatsoever in the negotiation or transaction of our land lease agreement," he continued. "We provided this information to Bloomberg but they intentionally did not include it in their article."

The Bloomberg piece further alleged that the law firm itself benefited from IPI. The law firm repudiated that claim, adding that the firm represents individuals and private entities, not government agencies.

"Out of respect for our

brother and public confidence, we do not represent any government agencies despite [being asked] in the past to represent them in legal matters," said the law firm in a statement. "We represent individuals and private entities including IPI, which we charge similar rate[s] as we do others. We work with several other law firms on island that IPI hired as well. The governor does not get involved in any transactions our firm handles," adding that this information was "excluded from Bloomberg's article" even though it was provided.

"...Bloomberg singled out the Torres lease despite the fair market value. The implication appears to be an unfair attack on the Torres family," said Vincent Torres.

Bloomberg further alleged that Serafin Camacho, the husband of Gov. Ralph DLG Tor-

res' first cousin, Lillian Camacho, negotiated a reported \$4 million agreement with IPI in land leases. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is also godfather to their adult son, Joel Camacho.

"Serafin's sale documents also show Cai's signature; the deals paid out immediately, even though the lease for one doesn't begin until 2042," the Bloomberg piece stated.

Serafin told *Saipan Tribune* that contrary to the allegations, he only received \$500 for his signature.

"...I have only received \$500 for a transaction and that is to have my name as the ... [fee] simple owner as a Northern Marianas descent," he said. "The \$4 million was paid out and benefitted other local landowners who are unrelated to me or the governor," Serafin added, without specifying who the recipients of the \$4 million were.

FAA

From Page 1

if they need more information, they will get back to us," he said.

Mendiola said that CPA has yet to hear back from the two federal agencies "so we believe that everything is in order," he said.

CPA is in charge of verifying the information that comes in before a report is transmitted to FAA and NTSB.

According to Star Marianas administrative manager Alma G. Canlas, the crash was caused by what she termed as "performance loss."

Canlas earlier said the pilot repeatedly experienced loss of performance and decided to return to the airport but was unable to complete the landing on the runway.

Mendiola said the flight was a discovery or aerial tour flight, which takes up tourists in the air to fly around the island of Saipan and other near-

by islands.

"A lot of them take off everyday but this is the first incident or crash from a discovery flight. We are glad that there were no serious fatalities and that the two passengers incurred minor injuries," he said.

"CPA is very much involved in the rescue and recovery part. We give credit to our regular...disaster drill exercise, which is a requirement from FAA for each certificated airport," he added.

The Saipan airport is tasked to perform a large drill every three years. For this year, it will happen either in the last week of March or in early April, Mendiola said.

In August last year, a Star Marianas aircraft had to make an emergency landing following a bird strike that crippled its landing gear. The aircraft was being flown by Capt. Jun Shimada, who was able to land the aircraft safely at the Saipan airport with all its passengers and crew unharmed.

HOUSE

From Page 1

tional as possible. That includes building it without the use of modern items like nails, materials that are similar to what the Chamorro ancestors used such as re-used lumber, and ropes that are made from coconut fiber.

"If we lack such materials, we do use modern materials to complete our purpose," he added.

Construction of the canoe house is projected to be finished in June, if weather and materials needed permits.

"Finding the materials is a challenge, especially the coconut leaves. Majority of coconut leaves are inside private properties. It takes time as we have to weave them and there is a curing stage," Castro said.

"However, we are working really hard to carefully [build] the house. ...Our trades helpers—Oliver Iguel, Jordan Ogu, Mike Naputi, Jeric dela Cruz, and John Sablan—are committed to finishing the house the traditional way," he added.

Castro said the inspiration for the program is for people to see how to live the culture on the islands in

an authentic way.

"We will be building traditional canoes. We are blessed to have Tony Pailug, who is a master navigator in traditional seafaring to be an instructor in future seafaring classes that will be held in the house," he said.

"We hope to get as close as possible to what is recorded historically, as the Chamorro ocean voyaging canoe was considered the biggest and largest canoe that the ancient Chamorros had. It may not be the exact replica but, since we have Tony Pailug as our master canoe builder as teacher and mentor in celestial navigation, it is possible," he added.

At the end of the day, Castro hopes that the traditional canoe house will stand as an inspiration to the community.

"We want to inspire the next generation to be proud of their culture. We hope that this would be the beginning of something that will continue for generations to come," he said.

"We also hope that this will inspire other villages to come together and build their own huts in their own village and, if they need assistance in terms of how it's done, we can assist through the office of DCCA," he added.

Torres: I didn't lie about unpaid workers

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said he didn't lie at the U.S. Senate hearing last Feb. 6 in Washington, D.C. when asked if there were still unpaid workers on Saipan.

U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) had asked Torres at the hearing if he knows of any unpaid workers on Saipan, to which he replied that he was unaware of such.

"For the record, when I testified at the Senate, they asked me if all the employees of Imperial Pacific International are taken care of. To my knowledge, they are," he said.

"I didn't know there were five that were not paid. I didn't lie or I didn't know about the five [and learned] only [about them] when they came out Thursday. I'm on top of it and I will be calling the U.S. Department of Labor to ask the cases about these workers," he added.

The five workers, part of a group tourists who entered the CNMI illegally, were employees of MCC International, and worked on the Imperial Pacific Resort building in Garapan. The other workers have already gone back to China in the wake of federal indictments against the companies that IPI subcontracted to build its resort.

In a statement by a representative of the workers, they said it is "hard to understand" how Torres does not know about the unpaid workers on Saipan.

Torres said the reason why the workers are still on Saipan is a federal issue.

"I don't know what the case or where it is at this point but I will find that out. I want to know who made the offer to these workers—the USDOL or IPI? I don't know that," he said.

"Those are the things that I want to clear out. I will call IPI and ask for an update on what's going on...I want to find out if USDOL has been notified and know what is the next process," he added.

Torres said it is unacceptable to let an individual work and not get paid.

"This scenario is not acceptable... It's not just Best Sunshine, it is anybody you work for...no matter who they are. If there are other workers out there, then they should come out so we can make sure we take care of it and take care of those allegations," he said.

"It doesn't matter who you are—if you work, then you should get paid. If workers

feel that they are being underpaid...then what is the next step? If we need to bring in USDOL to come in, then we

should and, if not, I would like to know what's going on, why are they not here addressing the [issue]," he added.




QUALITY PRE-OWNED

2015 NISSAN FRONTIER SV Stock#: Fn700804 Drivetrain: 4WD Engine: 4.0 Liter Transmission: Automatic Mileage: 25000 Color: Gun Metallic \$26,995 	2011 NISSAN FRONTIER CREW CAB SV Stock # BC400708 Drivetrain: RWD 4X2 Engine: 4.0 L 6 CYL Transmission: AUTO Est. Mileage: 91,460 Color: WHITE \$16,995 	
2014 FORD FIESTA SE Stock # EM124755 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 1.6 Liter TIVCT Transmission: AUTO Est. Mileage: 36,950 Color: GREEN \$10,995 	2012 KIA SEDONA LX Stock # C6507846 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 3.5 Liter DOHC Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 45060 Color: GRAY \$11,995 	2014 KIA SEDONA LX Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 3.5 LTR 6-CYL Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 50,688 Color: SILVER \$13,995 
2010 NISSAN MAXIMA SV SPORT Stock # AC802050 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 3.5 LTR 6CYL Transmission: AUTO Est. Mileage: 70988 Color: SILVER \$14,995 	2016 KIA SOUL Stock # G7384823 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 2.0 LTR DOHC Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 36970 Color: RED/BLACK \$17,995 	2016 KIA SOUL EX Stock # G7313155 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 2.0 L DOHC 16 valves Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 23540 Color: BLUE/WHIT \$18,995 
2016 KIA SOUL EX Stock # G7379546 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 2.0 LTR DOHC Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 22,050 MILES Color: BLUE/WHITE \$18,995 	2013 NISSAN MAXIMA SV Stock # DC843965 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 3.5 LITER Transmission: Automatic CVT Est. Mileage: 35550 Color: BLACK \$18,995 	2012 NISSAN XTERRA S Stock # CC527339 Drivetrain: 4WD Engine: 4.0 Liter Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 41328 Color: Brilliant Silver \$18,995 
2015 NISSAN QUEST S Stock # F9123375 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 3.5L V6 DOHC Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 18425 Color: White \$20,995 	2015 NISSAN QUEST S Stock # F9126212 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 3.5 Liter Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 17320 Color: White \$20,995 	2016 KIA SPORTAGE EX Stock # G7840712 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 2.4 Liter Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 19778 Color: Black \$21,795 
2014 NISSAN MAXIMA SV Stock # EC434607 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 3.5 LTR 6-CYL Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 25,775 Color: WHITE \$22,995 	2017 HONDA ACCORD SPORT Stock # HA051245 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 2.4L 4-cyl Transmission: AUTO Est. Mileage: 7,150 Color: BLACK \$25,995 	2016 NISSAN MAXIMA SV Stock # GC407956 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 24 valve 3.5L V-6 Transmission: AUTO Est. Mileage: 1,898 Color: DEEP BLUE PEARL \$38,995 

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See dealer for details regarding the Joeten customer checklist. Some conditions apply.

Tina Togawa
Sales Consultant
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GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Accounting Technician (04) \$7.10 - \$8.50/ hour or up to \$2,400.00 per month
College graduate with a minimum of 5 years' experience as an Accounting Technician. Must Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers. Operate computers programmed with accounting software such as quick books and peach tree.

Administrative Assistant (01) \$7.10 - \$8.25 /hour
Must be a college graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience. Knowledgeable on construction business. Provide high-level administrative support by conducting research, preparing statistical reports, handling information requests, and performing clerical functions such as preparing correspondence, receiving visitors, arranging conference calls, and scheduling meetings. May also train and supervise lower-level clerical staff. Prepare invoices, reports, memos, letters, financial statements, and other documents, using word processing, spreadsheet, database, or presentation software.

Architectural Drafter Technician (4) \$7.10 - \$8.75/hour
College graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience as an Architectural Drafter Technician. Prepare detailed drawings of architectural designs and plans for buildings and structures according to specifications provided by architect. Capable of preparing detailed drawings of architectural/structural features of buildings as well as drawings and photographic relief maps used in civil engineering projects such as highways, bridges and other public works. Knowledgeable on building materials engineering practices/mathematics used to complete drawings drafts.

Auto Body Repairer (2) \$7.10 - \$7.25/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum 2 years' experience as Auto Body Repairer. With knowledge how to repair and refinish automotive vehicle bodies and straighten vehicle frames. Sand body areas to be painted and cover bumpers, windows, and trim with masking tape or paper to protect them from the paint. Fit and weld replacement parts into place, using wrenches and welding equipment, and grind down welds to smooth them, using power grinders and other tools. Prime and paint repaired surfaces, using paint spray guns and motorized sanders.

Automobile Electrician (2) \$7.10 - \$7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of five years' work related experience. Able to diagnose and undertake electrical repairs on a wide variety of vehicles and heavy equipment. With knowledge on electric motor, alternator, starter and motor rewinding.

Carpenter (28) \$7.10 - \$7.85/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of five years' experience as a Carpenter. With knowledge how to construct, erect, install, or repair structures and fixtures made of wood, such as concrete forms; building frameworks, including partitions, joists, studding, and rafters; and wood stairways, window and door frames, and hardwood floors. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Civil Engineering Technicians (4) \$7.10- 9.00/hour or up to \$2,200.00 per month
Must be a college graduate with minimum of two years' experience as a Civil Engineering Technician with knowledge how to apply Theory and Principles of Civil Engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction, structure maintenance and facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientist.

Construction Manager (1) \$3,000.00-\$3,250.00 per month
College graduate or with a minimum 5 years experience as a Construction Manager. Knowledge direct or coordinate through subordinate supervisory personnel activities in regards to maintenance of structures, facilities and systems. Participate in the conceptual development project and oversee its organization, scheduling, budgeting and implementation. Includes specialized construction fields such as carpentry or plumbing.

Diesel Mechanic (1) \$7.10 - \$7.25 /hour
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of five years' work related experience. Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul buses and trucks, or maintain and repair any type of diesel engines. Includes mechanics working primarily with automobile or marine diesel engines.

Electricians (9) \$7.10 - \$7.95 /hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experience as Electrician. With knowledge on how to install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Able to install or service street lights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems.

General Maintenance (3) \$7.10 - \$7.30 /hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 2 years experience as General Maintenance on how to install equipment, Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Duties may involve pipe fitting; boiler making; insulating; welding; machining; carpentry; repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; installing, aligning, and balancing new equipment; and repairing buildings, floors, or stairs.

Heavy Equipment Mechanic (14) \$7.10 - \$8.50 /hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic. With knowledge how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automobiles, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks and conveyors, typically used in constructions.

Heavy Equipment Operator (34) \$7.10 - \$8.00 /hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as HE Operator. With knowledge how to operate several types of power construction equipment, such as motor graders, bulldozers, trenching machine, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovels, tractors, or front-end loaders to excavate, move, and grade earth, erect structures, or pour concretes and etc.

Machinist (1) \$7.10 - \$8.00 /hour
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience as a Machinist. Set up and operate a variety of machine tools to produce precision parts and instruments. Includes precision instrument makers who fabricate, modify, or repair mechanical instruments. May also fabricate and modify parts to make or repair machine tools or maintain industrial machines, applying knowledge of mechanics, mathematics, metal properties, layout, and machining procedures.

Mason (35) \$7.10 - \$8.10/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 3 years experience as Mason. With knowledge how to do smooth and finish surfaces of poured concrete, such as floors, walks, sidewalks, roads, or curbs using a variety of hand and power tools. Align forms for sidewalks, curbs, or gutters; patch voids; and use saws to cut expansion joints.

Mechanical Engineering Technicians (03) \$7.10-8.00 /hour
Must be a college graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as a Mechanical Engineering Technician with knowledge on how to apply Theory and Principles of Mechanical Engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction, structure maintenance and other facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientists.

Painter (4) \$7.10 - \$7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum 5 years experience as Painter. Knowledgeable on how to operate/tend various painting machines. Able to paint transportation equipment surfaces, such as automobiles, buses, trucks, trains, boats, airplanes ad etc.

Plumber (8) \$7.10 - \$7.90 /hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experienced as a plumber with knowledge to assemble, install alter and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry water, steam, air or other liquids or gases. May install heating and cooling equipment and mechanical control systems and sprinkler fitters.

Rigger (02) \$7.10 - \$7.25/hour
Must be a high school graduate with 2 years work experience on related field of construction. Set up or repair rigging for construction projects, manufacturing plants, logging yards, ships and shipyards, or for the entertainment industry.

Sheet Metal Worker (02) \$7.10 - \$7.25/hour
High school graduate with minimum 2 years experienced as a Sheet Metal Worker. With knowledge on how to install pre-fabricated sheet metal ducts used for heating, air conditioning or other purposes

Steel Worker (7) \$7.10 - \$7.50 /hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as a Steel Worker. With knowledge how to rise, place and unite iron or steel girders, R columns and structural members to form a completed structures or structural frameworks. May erect metal storage tanks and assemble prefabricated metal buildings. Position and secure steel bars or mesh in concrete forms in order to reinforce concrete.

Tower Crane Operator (02) \$7.10 - \$7.25 /hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 2 years work related experience. Must be able to comply with all safety regulations and work with minimal supervision.

Truck Driver (1) \$710 - \$8.75/hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2-5 years experiences as a Truck Driver with knowledge on how to drive a Tractor Trailer or Trucks that has a capacity of at least 26,000 GVW for various construction materials transportation.

Welder (10) \$7.10 - \$7.50 /hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years experience as a Welder. With knowledge how to use hand-welding, flame-cutting, hand soldering, or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products.

All of the above positions must be able to work flexible time. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Closing Date: March 01, 2018.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

EOC warns of high surf until tomorrow

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a high surf advisory is in effect until 6am tomorrow, Thursday, due to a building north swell causing larger surf.

A large north swell behind a diffuse shear line is beginning to reach the Marianas. As a result, the north swell will cause hazardous surf to develop.

■ The NWS said a high risk of rip currents will continue through early Thursday morning.

■ Hazardous surf of 7 to 9 feet along north facing reefs will persist through today before beginning to decrease tonight. Surf is expected to fall below hazardous levels early Thursday. The risk of rip currents is also expected to fall to moderate along north facing reefs early Thursday morning.

■ The public is advised to avoid venturing near reefs and exposed beaches, especially those facing north, as rip currents will be life threatening.

■ If you become caught in a rip current, remain calm and swim parallel to shore and back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to

swim directly against a rip current. **(EOC)**

Scheduled power outage on Feb. 22

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018, from 3pm to 6pm to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to perform maintenance on the power distribution system along Beach Road near Hong Ye Hardware in Chalan Kanoa.

The Kiya 4 (2nd partial) covering the area in Susupe from the Arizona building south to Chalan Kanoa near the M.S. Villagomez building will be affected.

No water well will be affected but the A-5 and A-9 wastewater lift stations will be affected. The traffic light in Susupe (near the cathedral) will be affected. **(PR)**

DOL clinic for CNMI businesses

The CNMI Department of Labor will be holding a clinic for CNMI businesses on Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. Registration starts at 8am and the clinic begins at 9am. Clinic ends at noon. The topics will include Employment and Training Services, Job Vacancy Announcements Guideline, CW-1 Transition-

al Worker Update, Occupational Safety Health Act, and Workforce Investment Opportunity Act.

Contact Barbara T. Sablan (bsablandol@gmail.com), Eugene Tebuteb (etebuteb.dol@gmail.com), Gil San Nicolas (gsanicolasdol@gmail.com), or call 664-3196 / 3197 or 664-3190 or 322 – 4365. **(PR)**

PTA meeting at MHS

The Marianas High School PTA will have a monthly meeting on Feb. 21, 2018, at the MHS cafeteria, from 6pm to 7pm. The topic will include the student’s online class 101 for parents featuring Bobby Cruz and Lorraine Catienza. All parents of freshman and sophomore students are encouraged to attend. **(PR)**

VA benefits counselor visiting Saipan

The U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration will be visiting Saipan. A VA benefits counselor will be at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic on Feb. 27, 2018, from 10am to 3:30pm. The benefits counselor will be available to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process. The Saipan VA Outreach Clinic is located at the MH II Bldg. Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. To request an appointment, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. **(PR)**

WANTED

NEWS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a FULL-TIME news reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Above average writing skills and can work within deadlines;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer. Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Young professionals invited to MYPros mixer

All CNMI young professionals are being invited to join the MYPros Potluck Brunch Mixer this Sunday, Feb. 25, at the Governor's Beach House in Tanapag for fantastic food and company.

The mixer is MYPros' first meeting of the year to discuss the events planned for 2018 while sipping free-flowing mimosas and sharing laughs with new friends.

Food will be served starting at 11am, with games to follow from 12:30pm until sunset.

Attendance to the Brunch Mixer is free, but please bring your favorite brunch dish, drink, or dessert to share. There will be prizes for the first, second, and third yummiest and most creative dishes, with other awesome prizes for participation.

For all those planning to register or renew their annual \$30 MYPros membership, you will be entered into the raffles.

MYPros, or the Marianas Young Professionals, is an independent organization that aims to provide young professionals with unique opportunities for professional development, entrepreneurial endeavors, networking, mentoring, and civic engagement.

MYPros is known to host networking, professional, and must-attend events throughout the year. From organizing the Mentor a MYPro events where business, government, and nonprofit leaders in the community mentor members, to celebrating MYPros Young Professionals Week with events like the Personal Finance Mixer and Small Business Happy Hour, MYPros casts its net wide to the many issues that affect young professionals in the CNMI today.

A few other MYPros 2017 initiatives included Operation Homefront, which sent 112 care packages to island residents serving the military and deployed in various parts of the world, the 2017 March for H.E.R.S., which focused on women's issues in the CNMI, and the Annual White Sand Gala, which recognized young professionals making a difference in the CNMI. MYPros has an event for every young adult who wants to network, grow, and thrive.

MYPros director Frank "The Crank" Camacho said: "2018 is a big year for us. With election season right around the corner, we're hoping to empower our young profes-

sionals to discuss issues that are affecting them and their families. Through forums, debates, and other events that encourage involvement, we hope to have a strong membership base that voices their opinions. Our members are the future of the CNMI. But we still like to have fun; look out for our MYPros Diving Crew coming up here soon!"

MYPros Membership co-chair Michelle Atalig encourages employers to consider a membership for their employees as an investment in their professional development.

"MYPros would like to invest our resources in your employees. From opportunities to network with other businesses and agencies to workshops that will help them gain new skills, we believe your employee is worth a MYPros membership. It's only \$30 for the year. You can't beat a deal like that."

For more information on the event as well as suggestions for what dishes to bring, go to the event on the MYPros Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/mypros670/>. For more information, visit the MYPros page at <http://mypros.org/> or www.facebook.com/mypros670. (PR)

US agency, Kauai seed company settle on pesticide violations

LIHUE, Hawaii (AP)—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has settled with Syngenta Seeds LLC to resolve federal pesticide violations at the company's farm on Kauai.

Under the agreement reached Monday, Syngenta will pay a civil penalty of \$150,000. The company also will spend \$400,000 on 11 worker protection training sessions for agricultural workers in Hawaii, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The EPA said Syngenta failed to notify workers in January 2016 and January 2017 to avoid fields in Kekaha that had been recently sprayed with an insecticide containing chlorpyrifos.

The agency also claimed the company failed to "provide both adequate decontamination supplies on-site and prompt transportation to a medical facility for exposed workers."

The EPA says chlorpyrifos can overstimulate the nervous system causing nausea, dizziness, confusion, and at very high exposures, respiratory paralysis and death.

In January 2016, 19 workers entered a cornfield about 20 hours after the field was sprayed with chlorpyrifos. The wait period to re-enter is 24 hours. Syngenta said a supervisor had workers im-

mediately leave the field after he realized the error. Ten workers were taken to Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital to be examined.

Syngenta spokesman Paul Minehart said "agricultural worker safety is a top priority for Syngenta and safe use training has for many years

been an integral part of the way the company does business worldwide."

Alexis Strauss, the EPA's acting regional administrator for the Pacific Southwest, said the settlement will bring growers much-needed training to protect agricultural workers.

RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that all current and outstanding billing of accounts are due on or before **Thursday February 22, 2018**. Payment not received by close of business on **Thursday February 22, 2018** will result in temporary suspension of all services after 6 p.m.

To avoid any service interruption, customers are hereby advised to kindly remit payment for their billing on or before **Thursday February 22, 2018**. Any disputed charges must be brought to IT&E's attention either in writing or in person to the IT&E Chalan Laulau Store by 5 p.m. on **February 22, 2018**. Any undisputed amounts must still be paid to avoid temporary suspension of services.

If you have any questions regarding billing or services, please contact the Customer Care Center at (670) 682-4ITE (4483) or visit the IT&E Store in Chalan Laulau.



Payments are accepted at the following convenient locations:

SHELL Service Stations – up to 4:00PM
Chalan Laulau (Monday to Saturday) – 8:00AM to 5:00PM
TSL Plaza (Monday to Friday) – 9:00AM to 6:00PM
Tinian / Rota Office (Monday to Friday) – 8:00AM to 4:30PM

PAY BY PHONE: 682-4ITE OR PAY YOUR BILL ONLINE AT MYBILLING.ITE.NET



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Customer Appreciation Day!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2018
DOOR OPENS 2PM – GAMES STARTS 2:30PM

\$1,000.00 CASH PACKAGE PAYOUT GUARANTEED
10 GAMES = 1PK: \$50.00 / BUY 2 GET 1 FREE (Single Player)

\$5,000.00 COVERALL
(51 NUMBERS OR LESS)

\$500.00 CONSOLATION PRIZE
FREE REFRESHMENT – GREAT DOOR PRIZES!

EVERY THURSDAY * INSTANT BINGO
EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY * PACKAGE GAMES
DOOR OPEN 7PM. GAMES STARTS 7:30PM
EVERY SUNDAY, DOOR OPEN 2PM, GAMES STARTS 2:30PM

WARM UP * EARLY BIRD * SPECIALS GAMES * INSTANT BINGO
EASY TO PLAY & EASY TO WIN AT
INSTANT "MASSIVE" BINGO, INSTANT CASH WINNERS!
THE HOTTEST GAMES IN TOWN!
Must be 18yrs to play

Coming Soon E-Bingo!

PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION FOR CNMI WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

The Antidegradation Policy of the Water Quality Standards of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands states that the protection and maintenance of the quality of the waters of the Commonwealth are an historic and legal right of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, and that this shall be the public policy of the Commonwealth. Any proposed activity that will impact the waters of the Commonwealth must receive a Water Quality Certification from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ). In issuing a Water Quality Certification, BECQ must assure that the proposed activity complies with all applicable provisions of the CNMI Water Quality Standards and federal Clean Water Act, will not interfere with the attainment or maintenance of the existing or designated uses of the Commonwealth waters, and that all appropriate and practicable steps have been taken to minimize potential adverse impacts to aquatic life and human health.

Upon receiving an application, BECQ issues a public notification which describes the proposed activity and potential impacts on water quality, aquatic life and human health. A thirty (30) day public comment period will commence from the date of the first publication of the notice.

The Administrator of BECQ may conduct a public hearing to solicit comments on the application if a hearing is requested by the public. BECQ will make a determination for issuing a Water Quality Certification based upon a complete technical review of the application and the public comments received.

BECQ is soliciting comments on the following renewal application for a CNMI Water Quality Certification.

1. APPLICANT:

Saipan World Resort
Henry Hun Kim, General Manager
PO Box 500066
Saipan, MP 96950

2. APPLICABLE STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

CNMI Commonwealth Environmental Protection Act (Public Law No. 3-23); CNMI Water Quality Standards, Chapter 65-130

3. LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:

Waterfront area in swim zone, Saipan World Resort

4. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY: Installation and operation of an "Aqua-Park" consisting of five types of inflatable marine recreational apparatuses described as (1) Super-tramp 23 (floating trampoline); (2) Universal (a hexagon-shaped apparatus for connection purposes); (3) Runway 20 (five floating connection paths); (4) Marine Rock Climbing Tube (a stand-alone, sturdy, flexible climbing apparatus); and (5) Marine Slide Tube (a stand-alone, sturdy, flexible slide apparatus). In addition to the apparatuses, a total of ten concrete anchors will be installed and maintained. Total benthic footprint of all anchors combined is 29 square feet. The Aqua Park will be situated immediate west of the resort within the Saipan Lagoon.

5. IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: The project may have direct and cumulative impacts on seagrass and high value coastal resources in the Susupe lagoon.

6. PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES: Monitoring project will include scientific design, protocols, data collection processes, and other aspects to fully conform coastal management program goals and objectives. Elements will include water quality monitoring and marine biological community monitoring, as well as the attempt to document and design appropriate mitigation for any significant adverse impacts to the Saipan Lagoon's environment.

Saipan Brewing at NMC golf tourney

As part of its efforts to support community enhancement activities, the Saipan Brewing Co. will be participating once again at the upcoming 15th Annual NMC Foundation Golf Tournament on Saturday, March 3, 2018 by serving its highly popular craft beers at the first major golf tournament of the year.

“We’re excited to be taking part in the tournament once again by sharing our local, specially brewed line of craft beers with the golfers,”

said Stephen Sablan, Saipan Brewing Co. brew master.

According to Sablan, Saipan Brewing’s beer reflect island tastes and lifestyle. You can find Saipan Brewing at many of the local stores, restaurants, and bars all over the island.

The golf tournament is the NMC Foundation’s signature event that raises funds to support NMC’s academic programs and services.

The 15th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tour-

namment will be held at the west course of the Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. Showtime is at 6am and the shotgun start will be at 7am. The tournament will follow a medal play format.

First place winners in the men’s Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Ladies flights will each receive \$500, while \$300 and \$200 will go to the second and third place finishers, respectively. Hole-in-one prizes include a 2017 Toyota Tacoma

from Atkins Kroll Saipan, a 2017 Honda HR-V from Joeten Motors, \$10,000 in cash from Marianas Insurance Co., and \$5,000 in cash

from Pacifica Insurance. The tournament will also feature many other items such as raffle prizes like smartphones, hotel stays, meal gift certi-

ates, and much more.

Registration and payment can be made at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort or the NMC Cashier’s Office. For sponsorship opportunities or registration information, visit marianas.edu or call 237-6833. (NMC)



Saipan Brewing Co. will be serving its popular line for craft beers at the upcoming 15th Annual NMC Foundation Golf Tournament on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at the Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort’s west course. NMC



MARIANAS
VISITORS AUTHORITY

CANCELLATION OF RFP MVA-RFP-18-2009

For: Local Publication and Media Services

This is to notify bidders and prospective bidders that **MVA-RFP-18-2009** has been cancelled in accordance with NMIAC § 90-20-301. MVA has determined that cancellation was in the best interests of MVA because inadequate specifications were contained in the solicitation. The RFP is cancelled and all proposals are hereby rejected.

MVA understands that firms went through great efforts in preparing a response for the above mentioned RFPs, and apologizes for any inconvenience this cancellation may have caused.

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh
Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-18-010

MAUI 1 & 4 SHAFT WELLS MECHANICAL LIFT REHABILITATION PROJECT, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to design a method to rehabilitate the Maui 1 & 4 mechanical lifts; to rehabilitate the existing mechanical lifts and develop a safety plan for all required work in the shaft and tunnels in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **February 22, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to the Maui Shaft Wells facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **February 22, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to the Maui Shaft Wells facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RFP-18-010 Maui 1 & 4 Shaft Wells Mechanical Lift Rehabilitation Project, Saipan, CNMI” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 16, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor’s Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 26, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to CUC Water-Wastewater Engineer, Jake Parker via email address jake.parker@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS CUC-RSQ-18-014

DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, SURVEYING, CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION, AND OTHER A&E PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR VARIOUS COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECTS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statement of Qualifications from qualified architecture & engineering (A&E) firms for the design of water and wastewater infrastructure including but not limited to water mains, sewer mains (gravity and pressure), lift stations, booster pumping stations, water storage reservoirs, treatment works, upgrade to existing facilities; providing construction management services including but not limited to submittal review, clarification and technical assistance related to contract plans and specification, field engineering due to changes in conditions during construction, construction inspection, electrical inspection, review of partial payment requests, surveying, and other related engineering services on various CUC Water and Wastewater Projects on the Island of Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed projects are funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and CUC. All work is subject to EPA & CUC review and pre-approval.

The RSQ package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **February 22, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to the Maui Shaft Wells facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the SOQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RSQ 18-014, Request for Statement of Qualifications” to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 12, 2018**. Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received or postmarked on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A&E firm are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the A&E firm due to lack of information or understanding of the Request for Statement of Qualifications requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible A&E firms who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. A&E firms shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

This Request for Statements of Qualifications does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

All responses to this RSQ should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent, awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business and Engineering license in compliance with the Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 23, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email address nicollette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Statement of Qualifications for any reason and to waive any defects in said RSQ, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All Statement of Qualifications shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
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Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Drowning in a swamp of dysfunction

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Swamp Tours. Step lively, your boat is leaving. Destination: Washington.

Before we push off, we want to show you a video of campaign speeches by President Donald Trump. It contains his promises to hire the best people, drain the swamp, root out corruption, and end self-dealing by Washington elites, as well as his repeated assurances that he knows how to run things.

It was a setup. The tour will show you a federal government mired in dysfunction, straining to work, and populated by people engaged in the same behavior Trump vowed to exorcise.

Case in point: our first exhibit. Yes, empty chairs. They represent the 225 key jobs requiring presidential nomination that still have no nominee. That's more than one-third of those positions. They include critical posts like three undersecretaries and 10 assistant secretaries in the State Department, as well as ambassador to South Korea, of all places.

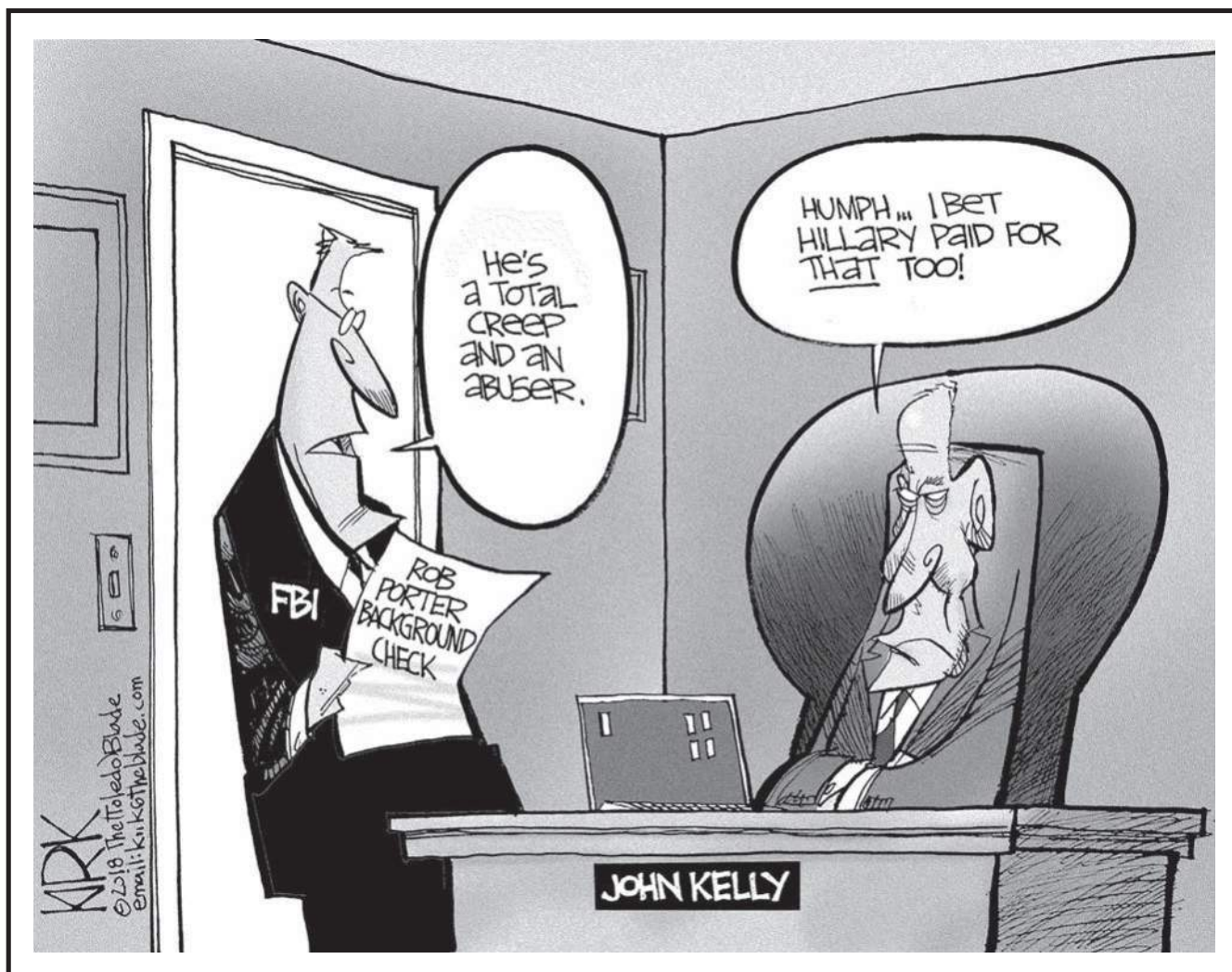
The vacancies mean some work is going undone and some people are doing double duty. The first portrait you see is of Mick Mulvaney, the White House budget director and acting director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The second belongs to David Kautter, who is both acting commissioner of the IRS and assistant secretary of the Treasury. Yes, those are all full-time jobs. And, yes, the IRS should have its own focused leader as it grapples with the new tax code.

On a good note, James Carroll is now acting national drug czar—more than a year into the tenure of a president who agrees the opioid epidemic is a crisis. That's because Trump's first nominee, Rep. Tom Marino, withdrew from consideration after reports that he had championed legislation that made it more difficult for the Drug Enforcement Administration to enforce drug laws. We'll be talking more about the quality of some nominees later on the tour. As for Carroll, this is his fourth job in the administration, following stints in the White House counsel's office, as budget office general counsel and deputy chief of staff.

That brings us to our next exhibit—this revolving door. The White House turnover rate of 34 percent in Trump's first year is more than triple what it was under Barack Obama, double the previous record held by Ronald Reagan, and higher than all five of Trump's predecessors. Effective governance is nearly impossible under these conditions.

Trump is difficult and unpredictable, making the White House a home of paranoia, confusion and frustration. Associate Attorney General Rachel Brand, No. 3 in the Justice Department, resigned in frustration because four of the 13 divisions she supervised remained unstaffed and she was unwilling to be tainted by any White House efforts to derail the independent counsel investigation into Russia meddling

See **DROWNING** on Next Page



Listen to the Douglas students — they offer America hope

Just listen to them. They're so remarkable.

They're Ariana Ortega, at the funeral of her friend Alexander Schatcher, saying, "We're here to make change. We don't want another community going through this."

They're Christine Yared, writing an op-ed column in the New York Times under the headline, "Don't Let My Classmates' Deaths Be in Vain."

They're Emma Gonzalez, saying at a rally, "The people in the government who are voted into power are lying to us. And us kids seem to be the only ones who notice and are prepared to call BS."

They're the surviving students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High, and they're not just grieving in the aftermath of 17 students and teachers being gunned down last week. They're fighting back with a weapon more powerful than guns. Their voices. Their strong, angry, always-on-message voices.

Just listen to them.

They're Lyiah Skinner telling CNN, "If people can't purchase marijuana or alcohol at the age of 18, why should they be given access to guns? I have had this conversation with my friends too many times. We shouldn't have to talk about this. This country needs stricter laws to help prevent other kids, like me and my classmates, from ever having to experience this."

They're David Hogg saying on NBC's "Meet The Press," "How many more students are going to have to die, and have their blood spilled in American classrooms trying to make the world a better place, just because politicians refuse to take action?"

They're Cameron Kasky, announcing on Fox News a "March for Our Lives" event on March 24: "At the end of the day this isn't about the red and the blue, the GOP and the Democrats. This is about adults and kids. And at this point, you're either with us or against us. We're giving all our politicians a clean slate. And in the next election we're saying if you accept money from the NRA there's a badge of shame on you. Because you're enabling things like this to happen."

They're not just scarred by the shooting. They're mobilized. They're in your newspaper, on your phone, in America's face. They're the first survivors of a mass shooting to confront the country like this. The Columbine students had no history of mass

By **DAVE HYDE**
Sun Sentinel



shootings. The Sandy Hook students were too young.

They're Morgan Williams tweeting in response to President Trump denouncing the FBI for spending too much time on Russia and missing this murderer, "Oh my god. 17 OF MY CLASSMATES AND FRIENDS ARE GONE AND YOU HAVE THE AUDACITY TO MAKE THIS ABOUT RUSSIA????!! HAVE A DAMN HEART. You can keep all of your fake and meaningless 'thoughts and prayers.'"

They're Sarah Chadwick tweeting after Sen. Marco Rubio said restricting assault weapon sales wouldn't help, "Dear Marco Rubio, As a student who was inside the school while an active shooter was wreaking terror and havoc on my teachers and classmates with an AR-15, I would just like to say, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND."

They're Eden Hebron, writing a poem, "We walked into class together and sat down/It was Valentine's Day in our sweet Parkland town/We were laughing and doing our work, me and my best friend/But little did I know that 5 minutes later, her life would come to an end."

These students are the adults in the room. They're strong. They're honest. They're on point. They're an army of tomorrow bringing change in a manner no one has in this country done.

They're Delaney Tarr speaking at a rally, "Because of these gun laws, people that I know, people that I love, have died, and I will never be able to see them again."

They're Jaclyn Corin, saying, "We are doing this for the victims, to not let them die in vain."

They're Carly Novell, who put up a picture of her grandfather on Twitter and wrote: "This is my grandpa. When he was 12 years old, he hid in a closet while his family was murdered during the first mass shooting in America. Almost 70 years later, I also hid in a closet from a murderer. These events shouldn't be repetitive. Something has to change."

They're the students of Douglas High. Just listen to them. Their voices are remarkable and offer something no one saw coming in the aftermath of this tragedy.

Hope.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Ripot Bloomberg

Malagnos un`ripot ginen gasetan Bloomberg pot relasion Best Sunshine (IPI), i gobietnu yan bisnes mañeluña.

Hu a`atan na yangin i estoria ma-intended pot destrosiu pues kulan felis ennu na intension. Para i kumomprende yan kalagtus mamaisen propiu kuestion, mas i estoria ha pega dinida ke ineppe.

Disbintaha para i familian i gobietnu pot ti man-mafaisen haf opinion niha pot sineda` dos gaseteru. Dispues `nai humuyunig i prohimo ha diskuenta haf` mangaige gi ripot siha. I infotmasion ti kabales tat kumu haye man-apase, haye ma-apase, manu guatu yan kuantu.

I asuntu sentidu pot tineteka reputasion tautau. Poresu na debi mohon u guaha inadaha gi mantuge` na attikulu. I gaseteru ti debi una` saunau haf` siñienteña gi maseha haye na prohimo para uma-gaseta. Taya masede gaseteru fuera ke faktu na asuntu siha.

Tinilaika: Konbetsasion yan man-amko`ta patte gi kutturan natibu. I suanu yan pasensia na finu` niha sumaga kulan eku gi hinasso-ta. `An man-adiñgan akonsehu `sino guaguat (discipline) mi-atoridat finu` niha.

Lau maliñgu este gi lemmem tautau `nai man-hanau i mañaina-ta para i deskanson niha.

Bes enkuando, hu birayu` tatte guihe na tiempu `nai sessu mañainan mame man-daña gi hilu` grasiosu na konbetsasion `an talo`anen Dameño. Sessu hu ekuñgog finu` biuhu piot gi usun appenas hu huñgog na palabra yan dopbladan finu` Chamorro.

Estague` na eskalera `nai anog tinemtum niha. Man-mofona ke hita gi finapos tautau. I dopbladan palabra `nai ma`udai man-fitme yan sattun na akonsehu. Motmut kinemprende, pinasensia, hinimiddi yan respetu! Taigue este gi halum nuebu na man-amko` i señsoñgi siha.

Estague` na patte gi konbetsasion man-amko`ta i sumen agradesiyun. Tat kustumbren imbidu ti mana` mansu. Siempre un` soda` manu sagamu dispues de umadiñgan i amko`mu. Estague` lumasa yan muna` magem todú kustumbren impitu gi maseha haye na hoben.

I maliñgun lagse` na finu` man-amko`ta appenas ta huñgog na tiempu. Megaiña siempre na masaulag appliñ na finu` Chamorro. Lastima. Guaha mohon kampu para ta sustene haf` sahyan kuttura-ta? Gaige este gi dos patman kanai-ta.

Kuttura: I kuttura-ta gaige i relihion, liñguahe, kustumbre, yan neñkanu`. Mas ma-adelanta kuttura-ta gi hinalum relihion Kato-

liku ni inestablesen Español mas ke 500 años antes.

Matutuhun tiempun kuaresma (Lent) kumeke ilegña tiempun rininueba. Enfin, mauleg yangin tana` guaha rininueban linala` espirituat giya hita. Gaige este gi hinanau familia para i Guma` Yuus` an Dameño. Dinaña` familia ni mabendise dispues.

Fitme na karera ni muna` fitme mas luserun kada unu gi halum barañka na fina` katsada gi linala`ta. Guaha `nai ta totpe chinat-saga. Lau diariu este ta fana poresu na cha`mu sumosot-ta haf` un` pesisige. Mientras mas makat mas na fitme fangu`ot-mu.

Ala kuenta pot adelantun hinanau-ta gi bandan espirituat. Na guaha tiempu dumeskansa ya un` attende este na patte gi karamu. Siempre un` soda` ginefsagamu bes enkuando.

Peska: I hagas kustumbren peska adumididi` sige maliñgu. Pa`gu man-pepeska hit gi kantun chalan `nai mabebende guiha siha. Guaha esta pa`gu ma-ususune che`chu` gualu` piot gi uttimun semana. Lau kase memegaiña lokue` umabandona este na patte gi kuttura-ta. Lastima! Maseha choda ti malefayu` tumanum gi oriyen guma` kontodu fina` gulusina. ***

Hu agradece benefisiun tinanum niyog. Ha inklusu tuban mames, manha, ma`sun, yan pontan. Paire gi na`yen katdun katne yan guiha. Lokue` metgot gi prinibenen chenot hamalefa (dementia). Kontodu fuñgion estomagu-ta ha aregla sin diten-sion. Hagas tinanum ni umayuda linala` antigu na mañaina-ta. ***

I`aggun haya tat kumu difirientes klasen sune, kamute, mendioka, nika, dagu yan todo klasen choda hagas lokue` katsun man-antigu na mañaina-ta. Esta pa`gu ta tatanum para usun familia. Mas lokue` mauleg alimientofia ke hinegsa`. Ma`ug gi halum estomagu-ta piot ya para ta kuttiba i edda` gi nuebu na mana` manana.

Dopblada: Mafagcha`e famaguon-ta hinalum mafanana`an “Digital Age”, `nai bula todú klasen attifisiu tat kumu iphone, ipad yan otrú siha attikulu ni tumane` diariu.

Debi i mañaina na uma-aregla usun este siha na attifisiun modetno na teknaalye kosake u guaha tiempu para dinaña` familia. Presisu na u guaha konbetsasion gi entalu` membron familia piot gi oran sena `nai todú mangaige.

Integredat: Un` palabra pot onru yan unesteria` gi todú pinetsige gi katkuet eskalera. Hu chage masensura gi redondun este na palabra `nai hu kabesaye depattamentun tanu`. Todú klasen modun ulu` kumbalache kumunanafe offisinahu lau tat tihu tiges!

sel Don McGahn, the traffic cop for such security clearances.

Now we come to our showcase of people who were confirmed, only to undermine Trump’s clean-and-drain mantra. Keep your hands inside the boat. The water is placid but the gators are ferocious.

There under the moss is Scott Pruitt. The Environmental Protection Agency head likes to fly first class while his staff flies coach. The EPA cites security concerns; Pruitt says it’s a “lack of civility” that creates a “toxic” environment. One \$36,000 flight on a military jet from Cincinnati to New York allowed Pruitt to catch a first-class flight to Rome. A round-trip between Washington and New York cost \$1,641.53 for Pruitt while a staffer in coach paid \$238.40. This is public money, folks; he works for you.

Travel issues are a cancer in this administration.

Look to the right. That’s Ryan Zinke. The interior secretary’s several charters include a \$12,000 trip to give a motivational speech to Las Vegas’ new pro hockey team, owned by a campaign contributor.

Here, in the weeds, is Steve Mnuchin. The Treasury secretary used a government plane to fly him and his wife to Kentucky in August—to see the gold in Fort Knox, he said, not for the ideal vantage for the solar eclipse. Earlier, Mnuchin asked for a military plane for his European honeymoon. That was denied. An analysis last fall said his use of military planes cost \$804,242; the bill for commercial flights would have been \$22,667 at best.

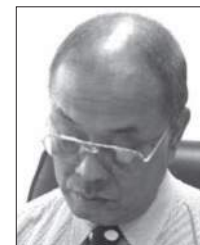
Lurking behind him is Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin. His agency’s inspector general found that Shulkin’s chief of staff changed the language in an email and made false statements so that travel expenses for Shulkin’s wife for the couple’s 10-day \$122,000 European trip would be covered. The report also found that Shulkin improperly accepted tickets to the Wimbledon tennis tournament worth thousands of dollars, and that more than half the trip was spent visiting castles and other sightseeing.

That empty cage on the riverbank used to house Dr. Tom

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



Kuattru matago`hu para bai chogue. Kada unu umakontra yan responsablidad-hu gi papa` i konstitusion. Machageyu`. Ni unu hulat poresu na ti magoflamen-yu` dispues de kuattru años. Hu resignayu` pot konsiderasion sensian kilisyanyu gi un` prohimo-hu.

Dispues de hu resignayu` man-atatiye man-fotte na linau `nai tat titinamba ni maladisisioña. Hombre este hu fatkiluye pot un` finu` biblia: I Saina sen man-apase! Pas, felis, katma yan kontentu karerahu ya ni unabes `nai mañotsutyu` ni disision-hu siha kumu kabisiyun depattamentun tanu`.

Unu gi mas makat na depattamentu gi halum todú pot tat ti uma`atan disposision tanu` publiku desde homestead guma` yan gualu`. Magahet na todú hu ayuda pot homestead mana`e animu humatsa fanliheñg familia. Kodu, suetdu yan pattisipasion todú membro gaige guihe na lugat piot gi uttimun semana. Halum pagyu, linau pat katma adumididi` ma-usune mahatsaye i nuebu na lugat familia. Animu!

Hanum: `In hassu estoria `nai hana` uchan i Saina kuarenta dias? Tat tiha punu` entalu` halum tasi yan enteru i tanu`. Ha bira tatte ya ha promesa si Noah na esta ti umasusede.

Haf` sustansian estorian ayu na hanum `sino uchan kuarenta dias? I hanum ni mapega gi ilmu `nai matatpañge hau. Enague` na hanum sumede halum Espiritu Santo gi antimu. Ginen este `nai un` tutuhun todú pinetsigen ineyag ni tinagu` i Saina. Este na bendision muna` tautau hau gi papa` disposision i Saina.

Tunog papa` gi pisun espirituat na linala`mu ya un` faisen ya un` pinipet piot guihe siha na ora `nai finagcha`e hau didog na estotbu siha. Hongeyu` na mas libianu ha`animu piot ya un` faisen si Santa Maria bendision katma yan kinententu. Tai achai-gua na fuetsan hanum baptismo!

Price, the former Health and Human Services secretary. He cost taxpayers at least \$400,000 by chartering private jets for official business instead of flying commercial. That was only one of his issues. Price also owned more than \$100,000 in stock in pharmaceutical and medical companies, businesses within his HHS purview. He resigned in September after Trump expressed his dissatisfaction.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald also lived in that cage. She resigned, too—over news last month that she had bought shares in a tobacco company after her appointment. Besides the conflict of investing in the leading cause of preventable death, she also owned stock in pharmaceutical and health care companies, which forced her to recuse herself from testifying before Congress on cancer and opioids.

Look, deep in that mangrove is Ben Carson. The Housing and Urban Development secretary let his son and daughter-in-law help organize and invite people with whom the couple had potential business dealings to a HUD listening tour Carson conducted in Baltimore.

That’s the end of our regular tour. For an extra small charge, you can switch boats and visit the scores of lobbyists now working in positions to regulate—or not—the very industries for which they used to work. You’ll discover that Trump gave more waivers of ethics rules to White House staff in his first four months than Obama did in eight years. This as much as anything belies Trump’s promise to drain the swamp.

Folks, complaining about ineptitude, dysfunction and feeding at the trough is not partisan warfare. Democrats and Republicans are calling it out. It’s another swamp, of Trump’s own making.

Whether you choose to continue your tour or end it here, please remember to fill out the comment card you were given with your ticket. Be sure to answer the question at the bottom:

Is this any way to run our country?

(c) 2018 *Newsday*

DROWNING

From Page 11

in the 2016 election.






Finding competent people willing to work for this president has been difficult, and some nominees and hires have been clearly unsuitable. It’s bad enough there’s no permanent head of the Census Bureau as the critical 2020 count looms. But Trump’s nominee for deputy director, who would actually run the census, was a terrible choice who finally withdrew last week. Politics professor Thomas Brunell, who wrote a book arguing that competitive elections are bad for America, would have politicized an office previously manned by nonpartisan career civil servants. And he’s not Trump’s only unqualified or unsuitable nominee.

Heath Hall, acting chief of the Federal Railroad Administration tasked with ensuring railway safety, resigned recently after reports that he also was working as a public relations consultant in Mississippi—as train-related accidents and deaths rise. A nominee for a district court judgeship could not answer basic law school questions during his confirmation hearing. Trump’s nominee for chief scientist at the Agriculture Department had no academic credentials in agriculture or science and ended up withdrawing after he was linked to the Russia investigation. He was just one of many nonscientists nominated to science positions. And Trump’s nominee for ambassador to Barbados and other Caribbean nations tweeted fringe conspiracy theories and false attacks on Trump election opponents.

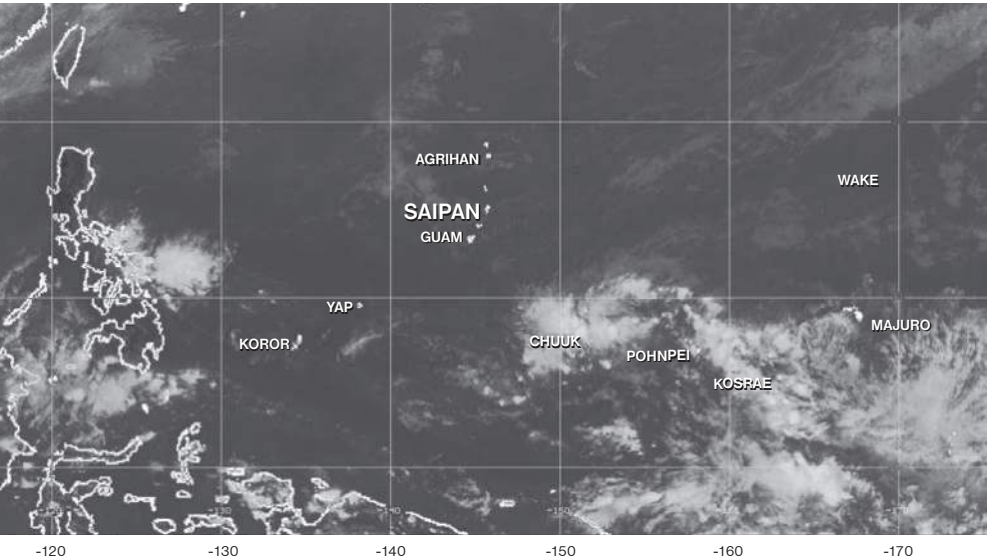
White House staff secretary Rob Porter resigned after his two ex-wives alleged he had beaten them. The episode also revealed the White House’s difficulties with the national security clearance process. Porter didn’t have such permanent clearance. Nor do more than 30 people who started serving on the day of Trump’s inauguration, including son-in-law Jared Kushner, press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders and White House coun-

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 76°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:03 AM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A few changes made to the forecast, one was to update winds with new model data and the second was to trim some clouds from today’s forecast. Satellite imagery from this morning did show clouds with a shear line near Saipan. The imagery also showed that the clouds have thinned out. Models still show clouds increasing through the morning so expect mostly cloudy skies this afternoon and persisting through the night. Drier air filtering into the area will bring back partly cloudy skies Wednesday. Trade-wind convergence will produce a return to mostly cloudy skies Thursday, which will continue through Thursday night. Deep layer moisture will be lacking so showers will remain isolated through the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	82° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	72° / 63°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	48° / 25°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 66°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 70°	
London	Partly Cloudy	45° / 32°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	61° / 43°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93° / 75°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	88° / 68°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	80° / 74°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	70° / 46°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	48° / 36°	
Paris	Sunny	45° / 27°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	48° / 36°	
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 39°	
Salem	Thunderstorm	79° / 60°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	53° / 41°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	43° / 27°	
Tokyo	Cloudy	43° / 36°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	76° / 54°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:03 AM	LOW TIDE	0.45	
11:14 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.90	
5:58 PM	LOW TIDE	0.43	
11:48 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.59	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:38 AM	6:22 PM
Thursday	6:38 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Saturday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Sunday	6:36 AM	6:23 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:15 am	10:58 pm	-
Thursday	11:00 am	11:54 pm	-
Friday	11:48 am	-	-
Saturday	-	12:52 am	12:40 pm
Sunday	-	1:51 am	1:36 pm

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017															
DEPARTURES								ARRIVALS							
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)								GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN							
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily					UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily				
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily					UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily				
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota					UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7				
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6					UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota				
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily					UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily				
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily					UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)								GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)							
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7					UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6				
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)								ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN							
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7					UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6				
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)								NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN							
DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily					DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)								BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN							
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7					7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4				
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5					7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7				
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)								SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN							
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily					7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily				
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1					OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7				
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7					TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily				
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7					OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6				
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily					LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7				
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily					7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)								SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN							
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7					3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7				
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)								HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN							
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1					JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4				
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4					JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7				
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)								GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN							
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6					3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5				
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)								BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN							
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7					MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6				
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)								MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN							
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN					UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM				
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN					UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM				
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM					OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN				
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM					OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN				
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM					PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM				
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM					UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM				
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM					UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM				
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR												
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)								HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN							
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4					OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN				
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN					OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN				
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN					HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7				
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7					U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7				
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM					U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6				
								UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.															
SAIPAN TO ROTA								1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY					1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily				
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily					1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily				
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily					1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily				
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily					1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily				
ROTA TO SAIPAN								1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY					1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily				
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily					1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily				
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily					1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily				
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily					TINIAN TO SAIPAN							
ROTA TO GUAM								FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY					2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily				
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily					2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily				
GUAM TO ROTA								2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY					2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily				
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily					2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily				
SAIPAN TO TINIAN								2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY					2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily				
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily					2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily				
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily					2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily				
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily					2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily				
								2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily				
								2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily				

NJSDA Regional Competition



Participants of the National Junior Speech and Debate Association regional competition wait for the awarding ceremony last Feb. 10 at the Mount Carmel School courtyard.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The winners of the Humorous Interpretation category for the National Junior Speech and Debate Association regional competition last Feb. 10 pose for a photo during the awarding ceremony held at the Mount Carmel School courtyard.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The winners of the Prose category for the National Junior Speech and Debate Association regional competition last Feb. 10 pose for a photo during the awarding ceremony held at the Mount Carmel School courtyard.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The winners of the Impromptu category for the National Junior Speech and Debate Association regional competition last Feb. 10 pose for a photo during the awarding ceremony held at the Mount Carmel School courtyard.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The winners of the Chamorro category for the National Junior Speech and Debate Association regional competition last Feb. 10 pose for a photo during the awarding ceremony held at the Mount Carmel School courtyard.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The winners of the Declamation category for the National Junior Speech and Debate Association regional competition last Feb. 10 pose for a photo during the awarding ceremony held at the Mount Carmel School courtyard.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The winners of the Lincoln-Douglas Debate category for the National Junior Speech and Debate Association regional competition last Feb. 10 pose for a photo during the awarding ceremony held at the Mount Carmel School courtyard.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The winners of the Carolinian category for the National Junior Speech and Debate Association regional competition last Feb. 10 pose for a photo during the awarding ceremony held at the Mount Carmel School courtyard.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The Dandan Middle School team, front from left, coach Johanne Kristine Wolf, Oceana Teigita, Juliet Inocencio, Issa Teigita, Jonathan Wolf, and Lars Wolf.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cremation Ceremony

PHOTOS By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Japanese Consul to Saipan Kinji Shinoda pays his respects during the Japanese Association for Recovery and Repatriation of War Casualties' first cremation ceremony last Feb. 6 at the Banadera Trail in Marpi.



Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog pays his respects during the Japanese Association for Recovery and Repatriation of War Casualties' first cremation ceremony last Feb. 6 at the Banadera Trail in Marpi.



Members of the Japanese Association for Recovery and Repatriation of War Casualties light the wooden logs during their first cremation ceremony last Feb. 6 at the Banadera Trail in Marpi.



Members of the Japanese Association for Recovery and Repatriation of War Casualties put on fire the remains of 39 Japanese soldiers during their first cremation ceremony last Feb. 6 at the Banadera Trail in Marpi.

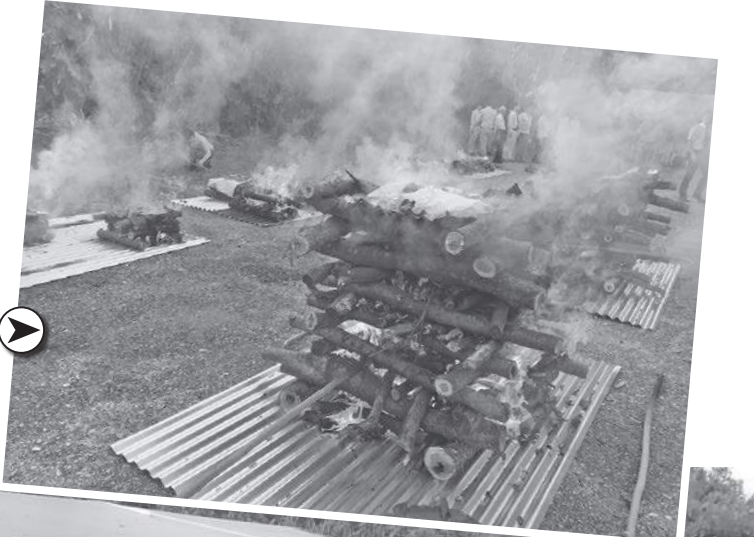


The members of the Japanese Association for Recovery and Repatriation of War Casualties light the torches initiating the start of their first cremation on Saipan during their first cremation ceremony last Feb. 6 at the Banadera Trail in Marpi.



Members of the Japanese Association for Recovery and Repatriation of War Casualties put on fire the remains of 39 Japanese soldiers during a cremation ceremony last Feb. 6 at the Banadera Trail in Marpi.

The remains of 39 Japanese soldiers are cremated during the Japanese Association for Recovery and Repatriation of War Casualties' first cremation ceremony last Feb. 6 at the Banadera Trail in Marpi.



Guests and dignitaries pay their respects during the Japanese Association for Recovery and Repatriation of War Casualties' first cremation ceremony last Feb. 6 at the Banadera Trail in Marpi.

Business

Turmoil shakes up agency in charge of vast US lands

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)—A year of upheaval at the U.S. Interior Department has seen dozens of senior staff members reassigned and key leadership positions left unfilled, rules considered burdensome to industry shelved, and a sweeping reorganization proposed for its 70,000 employees.

The evolving status quo at the agency responsible for more than 780,000 square miles (2 million square kilometers) of public lands, mostly in the American West, has led to praise from energy and mining companies and Republicans, who welcomed the departure from perceived heavy-handed regulation under President Barack Obama.

But the changes have drawn increasingly sharp criticism from conservationists,

Democrats and some agency employees. Under President Donald Trump, the critics say, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has curbed outside input into how the land is used and elevated corporate interests above the duty to safeguard treasured sites.

The differing views illustrate longstanding tensions over the role of America's public lands—an amalgam of pristine wilderness, recreational playgrounds and abundant energy reserves.

A year into his tenure, Zinke, a former U.S. Navy SEAL and Montana congressman, has emerged as the point person for the administration's goal of American "energy dominance." He's targeted regulations perceived to hamper development of oil, natural gas and coal beneath public lands primarily in the West



The Aug. 7, 2017 file photo shows Mount Katahdin at dawn, just west of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, a site administered by the U.S. Interior Department near Patten, Maine.

and Alaska.

He's also made plans to realign the agency's bureaucracy, trimming the equivalent of 4,600 jobs—about 7 percent of its workforce—and proposed a massive overhaul that would move decision-making out of Washington, D.C., relocating headquarters staff to Western states at a cost of \$17.5 million.

The intent is to delegate more power to personnel in

the field who oversee activities ranging from mining to livestock grazing to protecting endangered plants and animals.

Staffing reductions would be achieved through natural attrition and reclassifying some positions to lower pay grades as employees are moved outside the D.C. area, Zinke spokeswoman Heather Swift said Monday.

Zinke's actions have stirred dissent within and outside the agency—from his claim that one-third of Interior employees were disloyal to Trump to a proposal to allow more drilling off America's coasts while carving out an exception for Florida at the request of Republican Gov. Rick Scott.

Along with Zinke's full-throated promotion of the Trump administration's new agenda came the transfer of

at least 35 senior Interior employees. Among them was Matthew Allen, who was demoted from assistant director of communications at the agency's Bureau of Land Management.

He's now in a new position, performing "nonspecific duties" in an Interior branch that oversees offshore drilling. Allen sued in December, challenging his reassignment as retaliation for his support of government transparency.

"There appears to be a collective effort to suppress information being shared with the public, the press and the Congress," he said.

At the agency's highest levels, 11 leadership positions are vacant a year after Trump took office, including the directors of the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service.

Report: California pot growers lagging in getting licenses

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nearly two months after recreational marijuana became legal in California, less than 1 percent of the state's known growers have been licensed, according to a report released Monday by a pot industry group.

The 38-page report from the California Growers Association says 0.78 percent, or 534, of an estimated 68,150 marijuana growers were licensed by the state as of Feb. 7. The association cited such obstacles to licensing as cost and regulatory barriers.

A study published last year by the University of California Agricultural Issues Center estimated the newly created state market for recreational marijuana should produce \$5 billion in taxable revenue this year.

At the same time, it estimated the market for medicinal marijuana, which has been legal in California since 1996, would decline from an estimated \$2 billion last year to \$1.4 billion in 2018, while about 30 percent of pot sales would continue through the black market.

If more of the smaller, independent growers are not licensed by the state, taxable revenue of recreational mari-

juana is likely to be lower than anticipated as the black market continues to flourish, according to the new report.

"The current system will not achieve its goals without fundamental and structural changes that allow small and independent businesses to enter into compliance," the growers association report concluded.

An after-hours message left with the state Department of Food and Agriculture, which regulates the growers, was not immediately returned.

The growers association, which identifies itself as the state's largest association of marijuana businesses, said it hopes to work with officials in getting more growers licensed.

"We must develop a regulatory framework that will effectively curb the environmental and public safety impacts of cannabis by providing pathways to compliance for businesses currently operating in the unregulated market," said Hezekiah Allen, the group's executive director.

"If they are unable to comply, the unregulated market is likely to persist and there will be an unnecessary strain on law enforcement resources," he said.

New CEO denies prior knowledge of sex claims against founder

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The new CEO of Las Vegas-based Wynn Resorts said he was not aware of any of the sexual misconduct accusations against casino mogul Steve Wynn before they surfaced last month.

Matt Maddox, who was appointed CEO on Feb. 6 after Wynn resigned, added that people should "hold off making any judgment until the investigations into the accusations are complete."

Wynn Resorts is facing scrutiny by gambling regulators in Nevada and Massachusetts, where the company is building a roughly \$2.4 billion casino just outside Boston. Regulators in Macau, the Chinese enclave where the company operates two casinos, are also inquiring about the accusations.

Steve Wynn has vehemently denied the misconduct accusations and attributed them to a campaign led by his ex-wife. An attorney for Elaine Wynn has denied that she instigated

the news report.

The allegations surfaced last month, when the Wall Street Journal reported that a number of women said Steve Wynn harassed or assaulted them and that one case led to a \$7.5 million settlement.

Wynn Resorts has created a committee to investigate the allegations and to review the company's internal policies and procedures to ensure a "safe and respectful workplace for all employees." Maddox, who does not sit on the board of directors, said he would leave it up to lawyers and investigators to decide whether the findings of the investigation should be made public.

Many describe Steve Wynn as the father of modern-day Las Vegas, and by the company's own admission, his knowledge was crucial for its success. So much so, that the company recently told regulators the "business may be significantly impaired" if it lost

Steve Wynn's services.

But Maddox on Monday said Wynn Resorts is positioned to move forward without its founder and continue to develop a number of projects in part because two longtime executives responsible for design and architecture remain with the company. He is also putting together an "innovation advisory team" to provide input.

"The idea is that our future projects are going to continue to be leading in innovation and creativity," Maddox said while sitting at the employee dining hall of the Wynn Las Vegas casino-resort. "We are continuing to move forward as fast as we can."

The company closed its golf course in Las Vegas last year as a step toward the development of a lake and hotel project called Paradise Park. Last month, it bought a 38-acre site along the Las Vegas Strip that Steve Wynn, before resigning, said would be developed into

a roughly 2,000-room hotel.

Maddox said the company will pursue both projects as well as the possibility of obtaining a license to open a casino in Japan, where late last year lawmakers approved a long-awaited law on "integrated resorts" that is the first major hurdle in allowing casinos to set up shop. Further enabling legislation is expected to take several more years.

Maddox, 42, is one of Wynn Resorts' first employees. He joined the company when Steve Wynn founded it in 2002, two years after he sold the business that built the Bellagio, Mirage and Treasure Island.

Initially, he spent the majority of his time raising the money to build the Wynn Las Vegas casino-resort. He later worked in Macau before returning to Las Vegas in 2006. He led the company through the Great Recession as the chief financial officer and became its president in 2013.

STOCK

PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

25,219.38

+19.01

0.075%

S&P

2,732.22

+1.02

0.037%

NASDAQ

7,239.47

-16.96

0.23%

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar

1.2625

British Pound

0.7159

Canadian Dollar

1.2579

Chinese Yuan

6.2543

Euro

0.8077

Hong Kong Dollar

7.8219

Indian Rupee

64.6621

Japanese Yen

106.8970

Malaysian Ringgit

3.8536

New Zealand Dollar

1.3588

Philippine Peso

51.2524

Russian Ruble

56.4428

Singapore Dollar

1.3160

South Korean Won

1047.34

Swiss Franc

0.9314

Taiwan Dollar

28.6362

Thailand Baht

31.4225

Nation

Trump revives push for limits on immigrants bringing family

NEW YORK (AP)—When the U.S. government approved Ricardo Magpantay, his wife and young children to immigrate to America from the Philippines, it was 1991. By the time a visa was available, it was 2005, and his children could not come with him because they were now adults.

More than a decade later, his children are still waiting.

Magpantay gets worried when he hears the White House is aiming to limit the relatives that immigrants-turned-citizens can sponsor, a profound change to a fundamental piece of the American immigration system.

“It is really frustrating and it is very dreadful for me, because after a long wait, if this will be passed, what will happen for them?” said Magpantay, a 68-year-old mechanical engineer in the Southern California city of Murrieta. “I won’t be able to bring them forever.”

For the past 50-plus years, family reunification has been central to U.S. immigration law. Those who become naturalized citizens can bring spouses and minor children and petition for parents, adult children and siblings to get their own green cards and become Americans in their own right, with their own ability to sponsor.

Many on opposing sides of the immigration debate have long felt the family reunification system needs reform. Immigration advocates want a reassessment of the quotas on how many people can come from a given country in a



In this Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018 photo, Filipino American Jeff DeGuia, 28, holds up family pictures at Unidad (Unity) Park in Los Angeles. DeGuia, 28, says it took his mother more than a decade to bring two sisters from the Philippines.

given year, which has created decadeslong backlogs for citizens of some countries.

Self-described “restrictionists,” including President Donald Trump, want a narrower, nuclear definition of family, making spouses and minor children the only relatives a citizen could sponsor. That’s a central plank of the sweeping immigration overhaul Trump has proposed, a move that activists say could cut legal immigration in the U.S. by half.

Congress rejected compet-

ing bills last week meant to resolve the status of hundreds of thousands of young people brought to the U.S. illegally, including one plan that mirrored Trump’s overall immigration proposal. The lack of resolution on an issue that was pivotal to Trump’s election leaves it as potential tinderbox for the midterm congressional elections this fall.

In his State of the Union speech last month, Trump referenced an attempted bombing by a Bangladeshi

immigrant in New York in December as proof of the need to curtail what he and others term “chain migration” in favor of a more skills-based system.

“This vital reform is necessary not just for our economy, but for our security and for the future of America,” he said.

Trump is giving a spotlight to an idea that “was clearly out in the wilderness” in a policy sense, and something only its advocates were really talking

about, said Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, which has long pushed for limits on family sponsorships.

“He has forced issues to the forefront that need to be debated,” Krikorian said.

Advocates of family reunification call the rhetoric around merit and skills a smoke screen.

“They’re being disingenuous—their goal is to reduce

immigration overall,” said Anu Joshi, director of immigration policy at the New York Immigration Coalition. “This is just about cutting family, it’s a family ban.”

Prior to 1965, U.S. immigration was tightly controlled, with parts of the world all but ineligible and caps that ended up favoring immigrants from northern Europe.

Families of Italians and other Europeans pushed to change the law, resulting in a system that opened visas to all countries equally, with preferences for family reunification and, to a lesser extent, those with advanced skills or education.

At the time, politicians didn’t think the changes would make a great deal of difference and that European immigrants would be the main beneficiaries. Instead, Asians and Latin Americans started coming and then were able to bring their parents and siblings.

Dividing the available visas equally among countries also had an unanticipated impact. In countries where the demand was higher, like China, India and the Philippines, the line has grown so long that it can take years for someone to get a green card.

That’s a reality immigrants and their advocates wish more Americans knew, in the face of Trump’s State of the Union assertion that “a single immigrant can bring in virtually unlimited numbers of distant relatives.”

Confederate statue toppling cases start with dismissals

DURHAM, N.C. (AP)—Problems identifying protesters on video hindered North Carolina prosecutors on Monday as they sought to hold demonstrators responsible for toppling a Confederate statue last summer.

A judge dismissed the criminal cases against the first two defendants to appear in a series of individual trials, and he found a third not guilty. Trials for five others are to be held at a later date.

Prosecutors showed videos of protesters bringing out a ladder, attaching a rope and yanking down the statue in front of a Durham County government building in August 2017. But defense attorneys successfully argued through a series of objections that investigators had failed to meet stringent standards to prove the first two defendants were the people seen on the video.

In dropping charges against defendant Peter Gilbert, Dur-

ham County District Court Judge Fred Battaglia noted “the court must dismiss this case now ... because the identification has not been made.” He cited a similar reason for dropping the case against the first defendant of the day, Dante Strobino.

While Battaglia declined to dismiss the third case over similar defense arguments, he nonetheless found Raul Jimenez not guilty on all charges.

The three had faced misdemeanor counts including defacing a public building or monument and conspiracy. The rest of the defendants face similar charges.

The toppling of the statue helped thrust North Carolina into a national debate on Confederate monuments in the aftermath of white supremacist protests in Charlottesville, Virginia, which left one counterdemonstrator dead last August. The Virginia demonstrations were triggered by a

dispute over another Confederate monument.

While statues elsewhere have been vandalized, the Durham case drew widespread attention because protesters succeeded in bringing it down. North Carolina is among a handful of Southern states with the most Confederate monuments. It also has a law preventing local officials from removing the statues.

Some of the Durham protesters have cited the Virginia violence as the reason they gathered Aug. 14 for the demonstration that led to the statue’s toppling. They say removing Confederate monuments is part of a larger fight against racism—an idea echoed by defense attorney Scott Holmes on Monday.

Holmes told the judge that the nearly century-old statue benefited “those who would celebrate the traitorous, violent defense of human enslavement.”

School shooting puts pressure on Florida lawmakers to act

PARKLAND, Fla. (AP)—The deadly shooting at a Florida high school has put pressure on the state’s Republican-controlled Legislature to consider a sweeping package of gun-control laws in a state that has resisted restrictions on firearms for decades, lawmakers said Monday.

The legislative effort coalesced as 100 students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School prepared to ride buses more than 400 miles to the state capital Tuesday to urge lawmakers to act to prevent a repeat of the massacre that killed 17 students and faculty last week.

The suspect, 19-year-old former student Nikolas Cruz, made his first appearance in court Monday. Wearing a prison jumpsuit, he kept his head down and didn’t appear to make eye contact with the judge or others in the courtroom, though he responded briefly to someone on the defense team. A previous appearance was by a video connection from jail.

His lawyers have said he will plead guilty if prosecutors agree not to pursue the death penalty. No decision has been made on that.

Soon after the shooting, several legislative leaders were taken on a tour of the school to see the damage firsthand and appeared shaken afterward.

The attack seemed to overcome the resistance of some in the state’s leadership, which has rebuffed gun restrictions since Republicans took control of both the governor’s office and the Legislature in 1999. However, there is still strong resistance by many in the party to any gun-control measures, leaving the fate of new restrictions unclear.

Sen. Bill Galvano, a Republican and the incoming state Senate president, said the Senate was preparing a package that would include raising the age to purchase any firearm to 21, creating a waiting period for purchasing any type of firearm, banning bump stocks that can allow semi-automatic

guns to spray bullets quickly and creating gun-violence restraining orders.

Authorities said Cruz had a string of run-ins with school authorities that ended with his expulsion. Police were also repeatedly called to his house throughout his childhood. Cruz’s lawyers said there were repeated warning signs that he was mentally unstable and potentially violent. Yet he legally purchased a semi-automatic rifle.

“We need to make sure everything is working and to learn from the experience,” said Galvano, who was among those who visited the school.

The Senate is also considering boosting spending on mental health programs for schools and giving law-enforcement greater power to involuntarily hold someone considered a danger to themselves. The body will also look at a proposal to deputize a teacher or someone else at school so they are authorized to have a gun.

Asia

PH: Risks rising with China challenging US at sea

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The risks of a “miscalculation” and armed conflict have risen in the disputed South China Sea with a militarily stronger China now able to challenge the United States, which used to be the dominant power in the strategic waterway, the Philippine envoy to Beijing said Monday.

Ambassador Chito Sta. Romana said the balance of power was shifting with the two global powers vying for control of the waters, adding that the Philippines should not get entangled in the increasingly tense maritime rivalry.

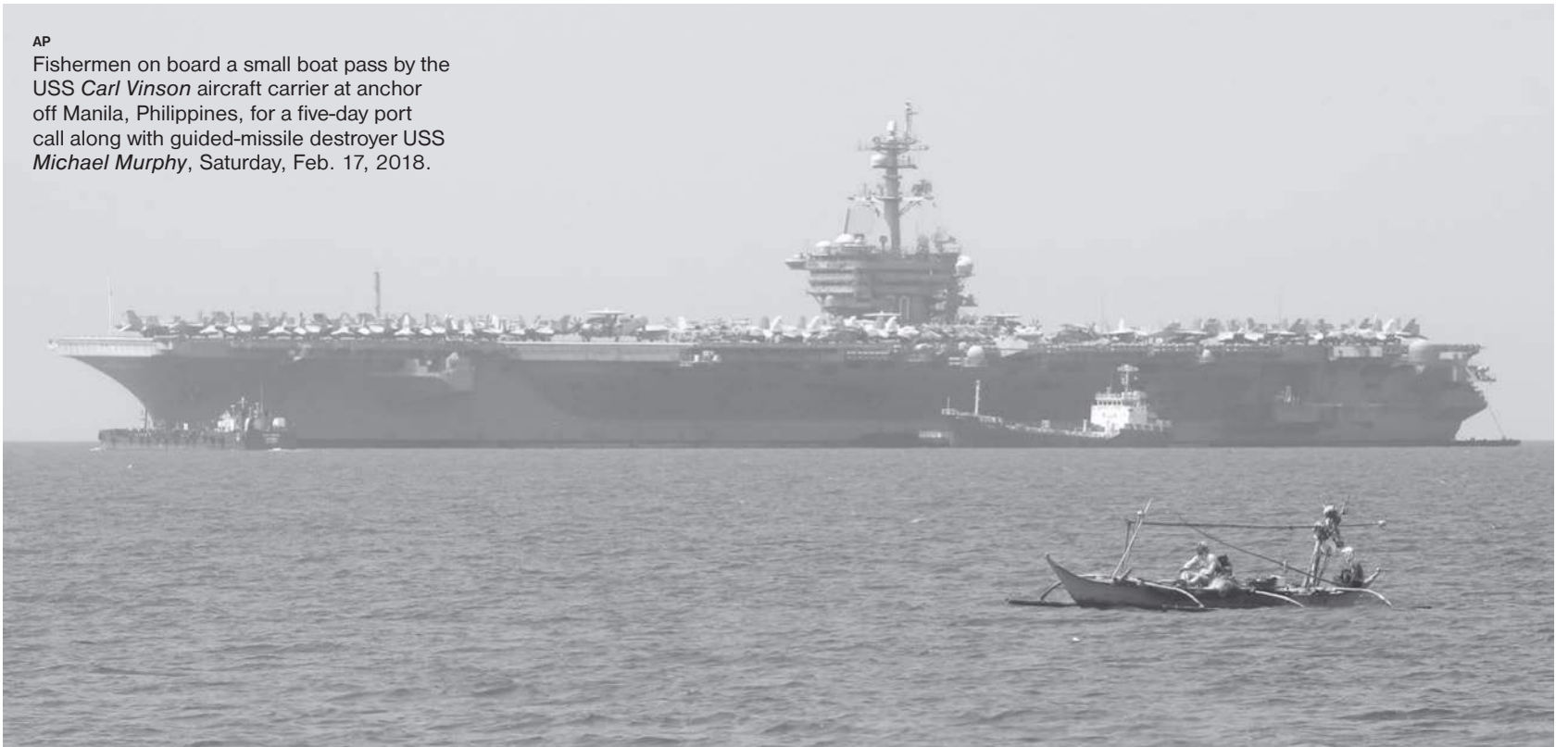
China claims virtually the entire South China Sea, where the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei also have overlapping claims, and it has built seven mostly submerged reefs into islands that reportedly can be used as forward air naval bases and have been installed with a missile defense system.

The U.S. Navy has sailed warships on “freedom of navigation” operations near the artificial islands, which China has protested as U.S. intervention in an Asian conflict.

“Whereas before the South China Sea was dominated by the U.S. 7th Fleet, now the Chinese navy is starting to challenge the dominance,” Sto. Romana told a news forum in Manila. “I think we will see a shift in the balance of power.”

“It is not the case that the

AP
Fishermen on board a small boat pass by the USS *Carl Vinson* aircraft carrier at anchor off Manila, Philippines, for a five-day port call along with guided-missile destroyer USS *Michael Murphy*, Saturday, Feb. 17, 2018.



South China Sea is now a Chinese lake, not at all,” Sto. Romana said. “Look at the U.S. aircraft carrier, it’s still going through the South China Sea,” he added, referring to the USS *Carl Vinson* that recently patrolled the disputed waters and is currently on a visit to the Philippines.

He compared the two powers to elephants fighting and trampling on the grass and said, “What we don’t want is for us to be the grass.”

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte’s policy of befriending China has worked, Sto. Romana said, citing Bei-

jing’s decision to lift its blockade around Philippine-occupied Second Thomas Shoal, where the Philippine military can now freely send new supplies to Filipino marines guarding the disputed area.

China has also allowed Filipino fishermen into another disputed area, Scarborough Shoal, after Duterte visited Beijing and raised the issue with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Xi reportedly told Duterte, “Give me a few days, I’ll take care of this,” Sto. Romana quoted Duterte as saying about the meeting with his Chinese counterpart a few

months after he won the Philippine presidency in 2016.

Duterte said in a speech late Monday that Xi promised him that China won’t build any structure on Scarborough and added that the Chinese leader should be trusted because “he’s a man of honor.”

The president jokingly told an audience of mostly Chinese Filipino businessmen that the Philippines could solve its money problems by being turned into a province of wealthy China, though he erroneously referred to it as “the Republic of China,” which is Taiwan’s official name. China rejects any insinuation that Taiwan, which it considers a province, is an independent country.

China took control of uninhabited Scarborough Shoal off the northwestern Philippines after a tense standoff in 2012.

In January, China accused the U.S. of trespassing when the guided missile destroyer USS *Hopper* sailed near Scarborough.

China has also relayed to Filipino officials its opposition to the Philippine military’s deployment of a Japanese-donated Beechcraft King Air patrol plane in late January to Scarborough, a Philippine official said on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authority to discuss the issue publicly.

U.S. President Donald Trump’s administration has outlined a security strategy that emphasized countering China’s rise and reinforcing the U.S. presence in the Indo-Pacific region, where Beijing and Washington have accused each other of stoking a dangerous military buildup and sought wider influence.

Washington has no claim in the South China Sea but has declared a peaceful resolution and freedom of navigation are in its national interest.

U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Tim Hawkins told The Associated Press on board the USS *Carl Vinson* on Saturday that the Navy has carried out routine patrols at sea and in the air in the region for 70 years to promote security and guarantee the unimpeded flow of trade and would continue to do so.

“International law allows us to operate here, allows us to fly here, allows us to train here, allows us to sail here, and that’s what we’re doing and we’re going to continue to do that,” Hawkins said on the flight deck of the 95,000-ton warship brimming with F18 fighter jets and other combat aircraft.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan official: Bodies found of 9 people abducted last year

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says that bodies of nine civilians abducted by militants early last year have been found in the country’s eastern province of Nangarhar. A district governor says the bodies, including three of tribal leaders, were found dumped in a common grave over the weekend. Sayed Rahman Mohmand of Kot district says the locals found the bodies in neighboring Achin district. The nine were abducted by militants in early 2017 in Kot and nothing was known about their fate till now. Mohmand says the Islamic State group was behind the abduction and the killings, though the militant group has not claimed responsibility for the deaths. Both the Taliban and IS are active in eastern Afghanistan.

Philippine forces arrest alleged ex-Islamic State commander

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police say authorities have arrested an Arab man who they believe is a former commander of the Islamic State group. Police Director General Ronald dela Rosa said Monday that police and military personnel arrested Fehmi Lassoued, an Egyptian who also uses the name John Rasheed Lassoued, and his Filipino companion, Anabel Moncera Salipada,

in a Manila apartment last week based on intelligence provided by foreign counterparts. Dela Rosa said bomb-making materials, firearms and ammunition were seized during the arrest. He said investigators were looking into possible links of Salipada and Lassoued, who has a fake Tunisian passport, to local and foreign militant groups, and whether they were involved in any terrorist plot.

Pakistan minister defends planned deployment to Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan’s defense minister says the planned deployment of 1,000 troops to Saudi Arabia does not violate a parliamentary resolution against taking part in combat operations in Yemen. Khuram Dastagir told the Senate on Monday that the troops would be training and advising Saudi forces in line with a bilateral agreement and would not see combat. Saudi Arabia has been seeking Pakistani military support for its intervention in Yemen, where it has been leading a coalition battling Houthi rebels since March 2015. Pakistan’s parliament unanimously passed a resolution three years ago saying it would not contribute combat troops to the alliance. Dastagir says Pakistani forces have mountain warfare and counterterrorism skills that could be useful for Saudi troops.

Maldives president seeks extension to state of emergency

MALE, Maldives (AP)—The president of the Maldives asked Parliament on Monday to extend the state of emergency that has helped him reinforce his power, as political turmoil continued to churn in the Indian Ocean nation.

The 85-member Parliament was expected to vote on the proposal later Monday, one day before the current state of emergency expires.

President Yameen Abdul Gayoom declared the emergency after the Supreme Court ordered the release of a group of his imprisoned political opponents, who had been convicted in widely criticized trials. Yameen asked Parliament to extend the state of emergency by two weeks.

Under the emergency law,

Yameen had two Supreme Court judges arrested, accusing them of corruption. Later, the remaining three judges annulled the order to release Yameen’s opponents.

On Sunday, the judges also delayed their earlier order to reinstate 12 pro-opposition lawmakers who were expelled after siding with the opposition. Yameen’s party would have lost a majority in Parliament had they been allowed to sit.

Yameen’s half brother and former dictator Maumoon Abdul Gayoom was also arrested after the emergency decree, accused of conspiring with the opposition to overthrow the government.

Maldives became a multiparty democracy in 2008 after decades of Gayoom’s auto-

cratic rule. But Yameen has rolled back much of the country’s democratic gains and freedoms after being elected to power in 2013.

The country’s traditional political alliances have been upended in recent years. Gayoom, now an opposition leader, is allied with exiled former President Mohamed Nasheed, who unseated him in the 2008 elections.

Nasheed, Yameen’s most prominent rival, is among the politicians ordered freed by the Supreme Court.

Maldives is an archipelago of more than 1,000 islands. More than one-third of its 400,000 citizens live in Male, the crowded capital city. Tourism dominates the economy, with wealthy foreigners flown directly to hyper-expensive resort islands.

World

Turkey warns as Syrian government poised to enter Afrin

BEIRUT (AP)—Turkey warned the Syrian government Monday against entering the Kurdish-controlled enclave in northern Syria where a major Turkish military offensive is underway, saying it would hit back at the troops if their goal is to protect the Kurdish fighters.

The warning sets up a potential clash between Turkish troops and Syrian government forces backed by Russia and Iran, whose deployment would be a first step toward restoring President Bashar Assad's presence along the border with Turkey.

The warning by the Turkish foreign minister came shortly after Syrian state media said pro-government forces would enter Afrin "within hours" to "bolster" local forces in confronting Turkey's "aggression" after reaching an agreement with the Kurdish militia known as the People's Protection Units, or YPG, which controls Afrin.

Details of the deal were not announced by either side, and Kurdish officials said talks were still underway. By nightfall, no troops had entered Afrin.

Assad's troops have had no

presence in Afrin since they pulled out of most of northern Syria in 2012, as nation-wide protests against Assad transformed into a civil war. A return to the area, where a potent mix of regional and international powers have boots on the ground, could further complicate the situation and lead to unwanted confrontations.

But depending on the details of the agreement, it may also serve to defuse the situation in Afrin, where Turkey has been struggling to achieve results in its now monthlong offensive to push back YPG fighters from its borders.

Ankara considers the YPG a "terrorist group" linked to the Kurdish insurgency within Turkey's borders. On Jan. 20, it launched a major air and ground offensive, pounding the enclave with airstrikes and artillery on a daily basis.

Turkey's foreign minister, speaking at a news conference in Amman, Jordan, said Turkey would have no problem if Syrian government forces were entering Afrin to clear the area from YPG fighters, but that it would strike back if it turns out the deployment

was meant to shore up the Kurds against Turkey.

"If the regime is entering to protect the YPG, then no one can stop us, stop Turkey or the Turkish soldiers," Mevlut Cavusoglu said.

Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdag later denied the Syrian state media reports, saying they were "false" and had "not been confirmed by authorities." He added, however, that any move to protect the Kurdish fighters would be a "disaster" for the region.

Turkey has supported rebels fighting to overthrow Assad throughout the seven-year civil war, but in recent years has focused more on trying to contain the Kurds. Government troops deployed along its borders, at this point, may be more palatable for Ankara than the continued presence of the powerful YPG.

The group has received weapons and training from the U.S. for years and has been Washington's main partner in the war against the Islamic State group in Syria.

It was not clear who, exactly, would enter Afrin. Syria's state-run news agency, SANA,

said pro-government fighters known as "popular forces" would deploy to the area.

"The popular forces joining the resistance against Turkish occupation in Afrin comes in the framework of supporting residents as well as defending Syria and its sovereignty," SANA said. It added that the deployment aims to "frustrate attempts by Erdogan's regime and its mercenaries of terrorist organizations to occupy

the area," referring to Turkish-backed Syrian insurgents.

A Syrian Kurdish official told The Associated Press that the Syrian forces will enter Afrin from the Shiite villages of Nubul and Zahraa in Aleppo province.

"The army will deploy in several border areas in coordination with the People's Protection Units and the Syrian Democratic Forces," said the official, who spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity because he was not authorized to reveal details of the agreement.

"The army will set up military positions in the border area and the agreement is that the Syrian army and the YPG will defend Syria together," the official said.

The Syrian Democratic Forces are a U.S.-allied group led by the YPG that has won a series of major victories against the Islamic State group in Syria.

Israeli settler leader says settlements grew rapidly in 2017

JERUSALEM (AP)—The number of Jewish settlers in the West Bank grew at nearly twice the rate of Israel's overall population last year, a settler leader said Monday, predicting that settlement growth would surge even more in the coming years thanks in part to the Trump presidency.

Yaakov Katz said that President Donald Trump, backed by a Mideast team dominated by settler supporters, has created a friendly new atmosphere conducive to settlement growth after eight contentious years with the Obama White House.

"This is the first time, after years, that we are surrounded by people who really like us, love us, and they are not trying to be objective," Katz said. "We have to thank God he sent Trump to be president of the United States."

Katz is founder of "West Bank Jewish Population Stats," a report sponsored by "Bet El Institutions," a prominent settler organization that has ties to Trump's closest Mideast advisers. He said the figures are based on official data from the Israeli Interior

Ministry not yet available to the public.

According to his figures, the West Bank settler population reached 435,159 as of Jan. 1, up 3.4 percent from 420,899 a year earlier. The settler population has grown 21.4 percent in the last five years.

In comparison, Israel's total population grew 1.8 percent to 8.743 million last year, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Katz said the rapid growth of the settlements should put to rest the idea of a two-state solution favored by the Palestinians and most of the international community.

Based on recent growth patterns, he said the West Bank settler population could approach 500,000 by the time Trump leaves office. His study did not include the more than 200,000 Israelis now living in east Jerusalem, the Palestinians' hoped-for capital.

"We are changing the map," he said. "The idea of the two-state solution is over. It is irreversible."

The Palestinians seek the West Bank, along with east

Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, for a future independent state. Israel captured the territories in the 1967 Mideast war, though it withdrew from Gaza in 2005.

A string of U.S. presidents, both Republican and Democrat, have endorsed the idea of a two-state solution and have joined the international community in opposing settlements as obstacles to peace.

But after years of failed U.S.-led peace efforts, Trump has taken a different line. He says he would support a two-state solution only if both sides agree to it. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's nationalist coalition is dominated by settler allies who oppose Palestinian independence.

Trump also has taken a softer stance toward the settlements, urging restraint at times but avoiding the strong condemnations of his predecessors. His ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, is a former president of Bet El Institutions. His chief Mideast adviser, son-in-law Jared Kushner, has donated to the group, and even Trump once sent a donation.

IS ambushes Iraqi Shiite-led force, killing 27 fighters

BAGHDAD (AP)—Islamic State militants ambushed a group of Iraq's Shiite-led paramilitary fighters, killing at least 27 more than two months after Baghdad declared victory over the extremist group, officials said Monday.

The Popular Mobilization Forces, an umbrella group of mostly Shiite militias, said in a statement that the attack took place southwest of the northern city of Kirkuk, where the paramilitaries were conducting overnight raids.

The attackers were disguised in army uniforms and manning a fake checkpoint, the statement said, adding that ensuing clashes lasted for at least two hours and that some of the militants were killed while others fled the area.

Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasool, an Iraqi military spokesman,

blamed IS "sleepers" and said Iraqi forces were searching the area to find the perpetrators.

IS claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement carried by its Amaq news agency.

Karim al-Nouri, a PMF spokesman, described the attack as a "heinous crime" and called for greater scrutiny of Iraqis returning to areas liberated from IS. He said the attackers had taken advantage of heavy rains overnight.

Hadi al-Amiri, the leader of the Badr Brigade, one of the most prominent Shiite militias, vowed "revenge."

Speaking at a military airfield in Baghdad where the bodies were being flown in, he called on security forces to be vigilant, saying "the war against terrorism is not over yet."

Prime Minister Haider al-

Abadi's office put out a statement expressing condolences to family members of those killed. It said it had issued orders to hunt down those responsible and other sleeper cells, and to investigate the incident and take any required steps.

At least 11 of the slain troops were from the southern city of Basra, where a three-day mourning period was declared.

Iraq declared victory over IS in December, after more than three years of heavy fighting. The group has been driven from all the territory it seized in the summer of 2014, but U.S. and Iraqi officials have said it is likely to continue launching insurgent-style attacks. Last month, IS launched back-to-back suicide bombings in central Baghdad, killing at least 38 people.

FIFTH YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of

† **Patricia
Taitano
Cabrera
Reyes**

Lovingly known as "Patsy"



We, the family would like to invite all our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the 5th year death anniversary of the passage of our beloved unto eternal life.

Daily Mass will be celebrated at San Vicente Church beginning on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 6:00PM. Nightly Rosary will be said at 7:00PM at the family residence in Dandan.

On the final day, Friday, February 23, 2018. Mass will be at 6:00PM at San Vicente Church followed by the Holy Rosary. Dinner will be served at the family residence in Dandan.

Your prayers, thoughts, and presence are sincerely appreciated.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase yan Oloomway

Antonio "Toi" A. Reyes, Children and Families

Good Housekeeping

Golden Lace, a champion for pollinators



TNS

Golden Lace patrinia reaches about 4 feet in height.

By **NORMAN WINTER**
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Norman Winter, horticulturist, garden speaker and author of, "Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South" and "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden." Follow him on Facebook @Norman-WinterTheGardenGuy.

Four years ago, I wrote about a Golden Lace patrinia a new plant to most gardeners and one that is thrilling beyond compare for anyone who loves pollinators. Now after four more years of experience, I can say it is a must-have plant, it is truly like having 'wild kingdom' packed in a four-foot-tall yellow blooming perennial.

Botanically speaking it is known as *Patrinia scabiosifolia* and is native to Korea, but you would swear it is a local. It is cold hardy from zones 5-9 meaning a broad swath of the country can enjoy it as a terrific perennial. Colder zones will find it best to grow as an annual.

In looking back at my photos over the last four years I see it blooming in June, July, August and a little in September which is longer than most perennials. Four years ago I was touting it with Little Red Joe Pye weed which is also wonderful for pollinators but doesn't have near as long of a blooming season.

After we saw how well it performed at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens,

we increased the plantings in our Cottage Garden partnering it with old-fashioned summer phlox, *Phlox paniculata*, and the brown-eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia triloba*. Both of those have a long season of performance and do their part in bringing in bees and butterflies.

Golden Lace is so stunning in its thousands of tiny yellow blossoms and golden calyces that would make a dazzling complementary partner with Mystic Spires blue salvia as well as the hummingbird champion Amistad salvia with royal purple flowers and black calyces. Anise hyssops like Blue Fortune and Black Adder are also stunning partners that bloom even longer.

It was amazing to see visitors stop and take pictures of the plants. It was not necessarily because of the beauty which it possesses but the sheer number of bees, wasps, flies and the exotic-looking hairstreak butterflies.

Sadly, many gardeners don't know about these little butterflies, but they are so unique. Over the years we have seen Gray Hairstreaks, Red-banded Hairstreaks, and my favorite the much larger Great Purple Hairstreaks.

The reason I am writing about it now is that you will have to start your search to find it now. There are some very reputable mail order sites just in case your favorite garden center doesn't stock them. You'll be happy to know that once you get one you may find

a little reseeding to have plants for other areas of the garden.

Golden Lace will reach 4- to 5 1/2-feet tall with a spread of around 3- to 4 feet. It thrives in fertile well-drained soil and needs plenty of sun to reach its maximum potential. If you are a cut flower lover, you will rejoice as everyone raves about the texture and beauty in the vase whether it's cut in bloom or after the petals have fallen.

The Garden Bug

Growing papaya

Originally from South America, papayas like a warm climate, lots of sunlight, lots of water and rich soil with good drainage and high organic content. Papaya fruit set occurs 10-12 months after planting. The surface of the fruit has a yellow or orange color when fully ripe.

- Brenda Weaver

Source: balconygardenweb.com



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IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

Frances Tibar Rebuenog

JUNE 10, 1969 - FEBRUARY 15, 2018

In her new life, she now joins her

Grandparents: †Pedro S. and †Carmen F. Rebuenog
Parents in Law: †Ignacio and Teofila M. DeLeon Guerrero
Mother: †Juana R. Teregeyo
Reared Father: †Romualdo L. Teregeyo
Aunts/ Uncles: †Julian and †Maria R. Camacho
†Jacinta F. Rebuenog
Brothers/ Sisters/ In Laws: †Juan M. DeLeon Guerrero
†Tom M. DeLeon Guerrero
†Douglas Cushnie
†Maria S. Pangelinan
†Ana Camacho

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband: **David Masga DeLeon Guerrero**
Children and Grandchildren: Rachel and Jason Simina (Frantina Carmen, Maria Divine)
Crystal R. DeLeon Guerrero
Dave Jr. R. DeLeon Guerrero
Bonifacio I. Wabol
Father: Maria L. Teregeyo
Reared Mother: Ellen and Roman Agulto
Brothers/ Sisters: Pete and Dorcia Teregeyo
Aunts/ Uncles: Vicente F./ Juliana Rebuenog & Family
Juan Diego/ Ramona Rebuenog & Family
Carmen Rebuenog & Family
Enrique / Sonia Rebuenog & Family
Jose/ Mel Rosa Rebuenog & Family
Sophia/ Raiph Rebuenog & Family
Jose Pangelinan & Family
Herman M. DLGuerrero & Family
Edward M. DLGuerrero & Family



Regina DLG. Cushnie & Family
Lucy M. DLGuerrero & Family
Santiago M. DLGuerrero & Family
Magdalena M. DLGuerrero & Family
Joaquina DLG. / Vicente Salas & Family
Ignacio M. DLGuerrero & Family
Francisco M. DLGuerrero & Family
Vicente M. DLGuerrero & Family
Maryann DLG. Sablan & Family

†Frances will be greatly missed by numerous relatives, friends, nieces, nephews and colleagues.

Daily Mass of Intention for the repose of her soul is being celebrated at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00am and at San Vicente Church at 6:00pm. Nightly Rosary is being recited at the family residence in Chalan Laulau.

On Friday, February 23, 2018 her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to the family residence in Chalan Laulau at 3:00pm. Responso Service will take place upon arrival of remains and will remain at the residence for a bela.

On Saturday, February 24, 2018 her remains will be taken to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral for public viewing and visitation. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am. Interment Service will be at Santuario PAX Memorial Gardens where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers,
Si Yu'us Ma'ase - Olomwaay

David Masga DeLeon Guerrero, Children and Family.

Life & Style

Letitia Wright steals show in 'Black Panther' breakout role



This image released by Disney-Marvel Studios shows Letitia Wright in a scene from "Black Panther."

AP

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Letitia Wright still can't believe she made the "Black Panther" poster.

The 24-year-old actress has an out-of-nowhere star-making turn in the Marvel superhero film as the whip-smart Shuri, teenage sister to T'Challa and top scientist in Wakanda. Vibrant, funny and cool, it's the kind of performance that has already left audiences won-

dering who she is and where they've seen her before. Tessa Thompson has tweeted her praises, as has Diddy, Common and "Deadpool" actress Brianna Hildebrand.

"She's the scene-stealer of the movie," said Jamie Broadnax, who created the website Black Girl Nerds. "(Executive Producer) Nate Moore has said she is the smartest person in the Marvel universe. She can take

folks like Tony Stark to task."

But Wright is still genuinely surprised that her face on the promotional materials, prominently displayed alongside the likes of Chadwick Boseman, Lupita Nyong'o, Angela Bassett and Michael B. Jordan.

"It's crazy, I didn't expect to be on the poster," Wright said the day after the "Black Panther" premiere in Los Angeles, looking up at herself as Shuri,

armed and set for battle. "She's just ready! Everybody is getting ready and she's ready."

Born in Guyana and raised in London, Wright has had a few roles on British TV shows, like "Humans" and "Doctor Who" and "Black Mirror," but has really just begun to make a name for herself in U.S. films, with small roles in "The Commuter" and Steven Spielberg's upcoming "Ready Player One." She'll also reprise the role of Shuri in "Avengers: Infinity War."

She's said she was inspired

to pursue a life on screen after seeing Keke Palmer in "Akeelah and the Bee" and Saoirse Ronan in "Atonement" and "Hannah." But a career in acting didn't even seem like a possibility for Wright at first. Her mom, while supportive, thought of it as more of a hobby.

"I was born in Guyana, South America. An acting career is not really something that's seen as making a living," Wright said. "I don't come from a creative background. I don't know anyone

in my family who is a musician or actor or singer. It's a lot of teachers, lawyers. Professional stuff like that."

Wright said it was her own drive and determination that made it happen for her, and her ambitions remain high. She wants to be the best and work with the best.

"(Saoirse Ronan) been playing leading roles for a very long time. That's something I would love to do—Play leading roles and really hold it on my own in those leading roles," Wright said.

As 'Black Panther' shows, inclusion pays at the box office

NEW YORK (AP)—A lavish, headline-grabbing premiere. Lightning word-of-mouth stoked by glowing reviews. Packed movie theaters with sold-out shows, long lines and fans decked out as characters from the film.

The phenomenon of "Black Panther" had the look and feel of a classic, bona fide blockbuster in route to its record-setting \$201.8 million debut over the weekend, or an estimated \$235 million Friday through Monday. Much has been made about the film industry's struggles to tap into pop culture the way it once more regularly did—that TV and streaming options and a dearth of fresh ideas have diminished the power of the big screen.

But when Hollywood does manufacture a must-see theatrical event, it has increasingly been propelled by the power of inclusivity. Just as Jordan Peele's Oscar-nominated "Get Out" (\$253 million worldwide on a \$4.5 million production budget) and Patty Jenkins "Wonder Woman" (\$821.1 million) did before it, "Black Pan-

ther" captured the zeitgeist by the potent combination of top-notch filmmaking (the film stands at 97 percent fresh on Rotten Tomatoes), studio backing and an audience hungry to see itself represented on the big screen in a way it seldom has before.

At the box office, inclusion is paying—and often, it's paying off big time.

"Diversity does in fact, sell," said Darnell Hunt, a professor and director of social science at UCLA whose research has detailed the connection between diversity and bottom lines. "In hindsight, it's kind of a no-brainer. The American public is about 40 percent people of color now, and we know that people of color over-index in terms of media consumption. The patterns we've been seeing are only becoming more pronounced as time goes on."

"Black Panther" debuted with \$361 million in worldwide ticket sales, setting up the \$200 million film for a theatrical run that should easily eclipse \$1 billion. History is assured. Just months after Jenkins helmed the biggest box-office hit

directed by a woman, Ryan Coogler will set a new mark for films directed by an African American. The debut, the best ever for February, is the fifth highest of all time, not accounting for inflation.

At a time where hits are hard to come by for Hollywood, diversity in storytelling is proving to be not only a just cause, but a box-office imperative.

"If you want to succeed on the global stage, certainly in the tent-pole business, you have to have diversity in storytelling, in the characters that you put in front of the camera, in the artisans you put behind the camera—to be able to get that better, richer storytelling and to drive huge results," said Dave Hollis, distribution chief for Disney. "The results speak for themselves."

Hollis pointed to the many factors that made "Black Panther" a hit: Coogler's direction, the stewardship of Kevin Feige's Marvel, the reliability of the brand. But he also noted a developing pattern for Disney—that inclusive films are both richer for their diversity and, often, richer for the bottom line.

Jesse Jackson: LeBron's 'slam dunk for justice is needed'

CHICAGO (AP)—The Rev. Jesse Jackson said on Monday he's deeply insulted by a Fox News host's "attack" on Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James and thanked the basketball All-Star for standing up for what he believes in.

Political commentator Laura Ingraham criticized the three-time NBA champion for his recent comments about social issues, suggesting he should "shut up and dribble." James has vowed he won't do that, saying he'll continue to "talk about what's really important."

Jackson said it's important for James, Golden State Warriors teammates Kevin Durant and Stephen Curry and other NBA players to keep

speaking out against injustice and the behavior of President Donald Trump.

"No one told David to just play his harp and not stand up for his people," Jackson said by telephone from Chicago on Monday. "No one told Samson just lift weights and not challenge the Philistines. They told Jackie Robinson, 'Just play baseball.' He told them, 'I'm a man with dignity first.' They told Dr. King, 'Go be confined to the pulpit.' He said, 'I must speak peace to a troubled world.' In that tradition, King James, LeBron, his slam dunk for justice is needed. We thank him."

Jackson, who founded the two nonprofit organizations

that merged to become Rainbow/PUSH, said it's star athletes' duty to speak up when confronted with inequity or wrongdoing.

"When Trump is attacking the FBI and covering up for the KGB," Jackson said, "LeBron's voice is needed."

The Republican president has repeatedly slammed the FBI, tweeting that its reputation was in "tatters" and suggesting it failed to stop a Florida school shooting massacre because it was fixated on investigating allegations Russia meddled in the 2016 election.

Jackson disclosed last year he has Parkinson's disease. He said on Monday he's doing "very well."

'SNL' alum Quinn recovering from heart attack with humor

NEW YORK (AP)—"Saturday Night Live" alum Colin Quinn is exercising his wit days after a heart attack interrupted his busy touring schedule.

The 58-year-old Quinn took to Twitter on Monday to let friends and foes alike

know he's "starting a list of those who didn't 'check in' yet," five days after his Valentine's Day health emergency.

The deep-thinking comic thanks the doctors and nurses at his New York hospital, saying they "realized they had a

precious jewel of comedy in their hands."

Quinn announced his heart attack last week, saying on Twitter his heart broke on Valentine's Day, "literally." He said he was doing well but if he dropped dead "you would see a funeral like Al Capone!"

He says the attack made him reflect, realizing "we aren't guaranteed tomorrow."



Quinn

French ice dancer undone by wardrobe malfunction on live TV

NEW YORK (AP)—Highlights from media coverage of the Pyeongchang Olympics:

WARDROBE MALFUNCTION: The Pyeongchang Olympics have had more wardrobe malfunctions than a Super Bowl halftime show, the latest on live television Sunday night when French ice dancer Gabriella Papadakis' costume became unhooked, briefly exposing her left breast. It was obvious to NBC announcers Terry Gannon and Tanitha White that Papadakis and partner Guillaume Cizeron directed much of the energy during their routine at trying to keep her costume from flying open. "I'm just heartbroken that this had to be part of their Olympic program," White said. NBC's subsequent online and television replays blurred out portions of the dance where the malfunction was evident. Earlier in the Olympics, South Korean figure skater Yura Min had a similar issue.

NO RIPPON: American figure skater Adam Rippon agreed to become an NBC

correspondent for the duration of the Olympics, but then changed his mind overnight. He told NBCSN on Sunday he was flattered by the offer, "but if I took this opportunity, I would have to leave the Olympic team and I would have to leave the (Olympic) Village." He said his friends on the Olympic team were there for him during his events and he wanted to return the favor. Rippon later echoed those sentiments on Twitter, which is where he said he initially found out about the opportunity. Rippon attracted attention for his colorful and candid interviews, and apparent ease with the medium.

SEALED WITH A KISS: It was a small moment with a big impact. Kudos to NBC for showing American skier Gus Kenworthy getting a kiss from his boyfriend Matt Wilkas. Kenworthy knows what it meant. "I never saw a gay athlete kissing their boyfriend at the Olympics," he said. "I think if I had, it would've made it easier for me."

TRAINING RUN: De-voting extended prime-time coverage to downhill skiing training runs was a snooze-inducing miscalculation. Even worse, people involved told you it was meaningless. When NBC's Dan Hicks prompted partner Bode Miller to discuss how the training runs give a glimpse into a skier's race strategy, Miller said that wasn't necessarily so. And Lindsey Vonn admitted she plays mind games with her opponents, intentionally holding back on her speed. Shortly after, NBC's Mike Tirico showed a brief clip of the biathlon photo finish between France's Martin Fourcade and Germany's Simon Schempp, noting it was a 9.3-mile race

decided by 5 inches. "Quite a story," he said. Yes, and giving it time to unfold would have been welcome.

TWIZZLE STICKS: Pro move by Gannon, early in his ice dancing work with White. When White said that twizzle elements would be crucial to the routines, Gannon instantly recognized that 95 percent of the audience wouldn't have a clue what that was and asked her to explain.

JUMP THE BRIDGE: NBC's Paul Burmeister reached way back to Burt Reynolds' 1978 movie "Hooper" in comparing an aerial skier's move to when Reynolds jumped over a gorge in a souped-up Trans Am.

QUOTE: "I hope my grand-

mother watching on TV is OK"—German bobsled driver Nico Walther, on how folks back home would react to his nasty spill. He was fine.

REGIONAL POPULARITY: Halfway through the Olympics, Salt Lake City has a keener interest in the games than any other U.S. market, the Nielsen company said. The Utah city hosted the 2002 Winter Olympics. Denver, Milwaukee and Seattle follow as cities with the top ratings for NBC's coverage.

GENDER BREAKDOWN: By a roughly 60 percent to 40 percent margin, NBC's prime-time Olympics coverage has featured men's events more than women's during the first half of the games, according

to a study by three professors. The numbers don't include mixed-gender events. The study said the gap is wider than it was during the first half of the 2014 Games. The gap is expected to narrow during the second half of the games when women's figure skating is featured. Weather postponements of Alpine skiing events may have influenced the ratio, said Andrew Billings of the University of Alabama, who is studying the issue with James Angelini of the University of Delaware and Paul MacArthur of Utica College.

RATINGS: Because of the holiday weekend, NBC did not immediately have ratings for its Saturday night coverage.

Actor Michael Keaton to give Kent State commencement address

KENT, Ohio (AP)—Actor Michael Keaton is slated to give the commencement address at Ohio's Kent State University.

Keaton enrolled at Kent State in 1971, intending to major in journalism and speech. He left school to pursue acting, landing appearances on "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," "Maude" and "The Mary Tyler Moore Show." His range of hit movies includes "Batman," "Birdman" and "Spotlight."



Keaton

Keaton spoke at Kent State in 1985 and said then that he would like to return someday.

Kent State President Beverly Warren says having Keaton speak at the May 12th ceremony is a "rare opportunity" for graduates to hear from "someone who has walked in their shoes and now has risen to the top of his field."

The school will pay Keaton \$100,000, the same it paid actress Octavia Spencer last year.

New exhibit examines Native American imagery in US culture

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)—Bold. Visionary. A spectacular success.

The words in an online promotion for a new museum exhibit in Washington, D.C., describe an 1830 U.S. law that forced thousands of American Indians from their lands in the South to areas west of the Mississippi River.

Provocative, yes, says the co-curator of the exhibit "Americans" that opened last month at the National Museum of the American Indian.

Bold and visionary in imagining a country free of American Indians. A spectacular success in greatly expanding wealth from cotton fields where millions of blacks worked as slaves.

"When you're in the show, you understand bold and visionary become tongue in cheek," co-curator Cecile Ganteaume said.

The exhibit that runs through 2022 has opened to good reviews and pushes the national debate over Ameri-

can Indian imagery—including men in headdresses with bows, arrows and tomahawks—and sports teams named the Chiefs, Braves and Blackhawks. The NFL's Washington Redskins logo on one wall prompts visitors to think about why it's described both as a unifying force in D.C. and offensive.

The exhibit falls short, some say, with an accompanying website and its characterization of the Indian Removal Act.

The online text is a perplexing way to characterize an effort that spanned multiple presidencies and at one point, consumed one-fifth of the federal budget, said Ben Barnes, second chief of the Shawnee Tribe.

The law led to the deaths of thousands of people who were marched from their homes without full compensation for the value of the land they left behind. And it affected far more tribes than the five highlighted online, he said.

Pakistan cricketer turned politician Khan marries 3rd time

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's cricket legend turned politician Imran Khan has tied the knot for the third time by marrying a faith healer, his party announced on Monday.

The nuptials ended rumors that had been swirling for months about Khan considering a third marriage, after having been divorced twice.

Fawad Hussain, the spokes-

man for Khan's Pakistan Taherik-e-Insaf party said the 66-year-old cricket star married Bushra Maneka, a divorcee his friends say he sought out in the past for spiritual healing.

Khan's party released photographs of him smiling, sitting with his new wife and her relatives.

Rumors about Khan's third marriage started circulating

in January. Khan was previously married to socialite Jemima Goldsmith and journalist Reham Khan.

Maneka comes from a deeply conservative and politically influential family from eastern Punjab province.

Khan acquired a reputation as a playboy and ladies' man during his international cricket career.

Defeated in the 2013 elections, Khan has spoken of his aspirations of becoming Pakistan's next prime minister following parliamentary elections, due in July this year.

He has also been a vocal critic of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Pakistan's Supreme Court disqualified Sharif last year from office over concealing financial assets.

Mother fears past abuser has now targeted her son

DEAR ABBY: I have a son from a previous relationship, and have been in a relationship with a man I'll call Bryan for a year. Not long ago, Bryan confided to me that he and his brother had been molested by a female relative. I don't know her. I have only met his parents.

This female relative has been asking about my son on social media because she has seen him in pictures with Bryan's family. I want to tell her to back off, but so far, I have held off. I'm afraid if I do, I will cause problems because his parents don't know what I know.

My protective instinct has become very alert. I may be wrong, but I feel like she sees my son as a future target. What should I do?

MAMA BEAR

DEAR MAMA BEAR: Listen to your protective instinct. Talk with Bryan and tell him the woman's questions are of concern to you, that you don't want her to have any information about or contact with your child, and then make sure your wishes are respected. If she receives any message to back off, it should come from him, not you.

DEAR ABBY: On behalf of all new moms, please help with this question. Why does every woman in the world, it seems,

feel entitled to ask new moms if they are breastfeeding their babies? How should new moms respond politely to this question? If you say yes, you may or may not be lying. If you say no, you will be judged. If you give an evasive answer, people will assume you are not and you will be judged as well. It seems to me that all substances excreted by the body should be off limits in social situations.

MY BUSINESS IN TEXAS

DEAR MY BUSINESS: Judgmental people can get to you only if you allow it. While there are valid reasons why babies should be breastfed, it isn't always possible, and women should not be quizzed by strangers about whether they are.

My mother used to advise readers who were put off by prying questions to say, "If you will forgive me for not answering that question, I'll forgive you for asking." Even though you asked for a polite retort, in a situation like this, MY response would be, "If that were any of your business, you would already know the answer!"

DEAR ABBY: A couple years ago, when we moved to a home with more privacy than our previous home, my husband decided to walk around naked all the time. It's not that I'm a prude, but I don't find his furry 60-year-old body attractive in

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



broad daylight. Quite the opposite, in fact.

I have asked him many times to please put something on, and he either ignores me or gets mad. I avert my eyes when he's sashaying by me. Is there anything else I can do to reason with him?

SEEN ENOUGH ALREADY

DEAR SEEN ENOUGH: Probably not. Since you can't change him, why not join him one day a week? You have nothing to lose but your clothes—and it might solve the problem.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

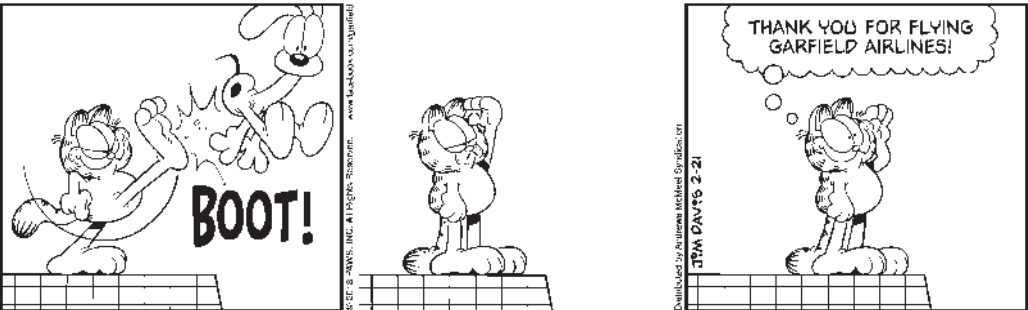
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



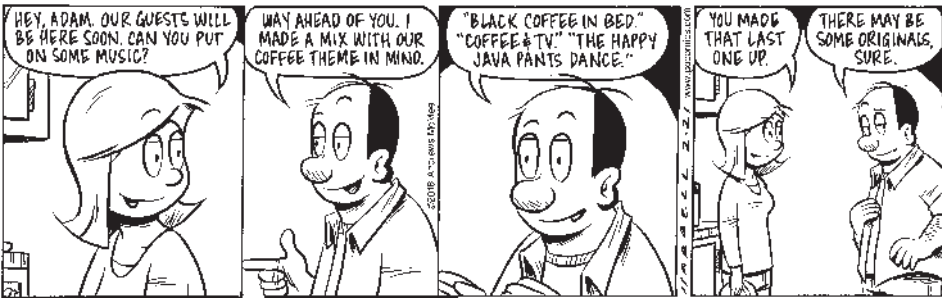
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 April forecast

5 Shade tree

8 Life story

12 Thus

13 Sturgeon product

14 Arsonist

15 Flashing light on Broadway

17 Wax-coated cheese

18 Dine at a restaurant

19 Sheets and pillowcases

21 Sun. talk

22 Scraps

23 Scratch the surface

26 Pot brew

28 Makes dirty

31 Barrel bottom bit

33 Cleo's slayer

35 Swelled heads

36 Spine-tingling

38 Paul Newman film

40 At once

41 Tart

43 Zodiac animal

45 Rook

47 Pro-longed attacks

51 "Snap out —!"

52 +

54 Jason's ship

55 CBS logo

56 Pond growth

57 Oodles

58 Started

59 Desist

DOWN

1 Painter

2 Bailiwick

3 —

4 Rhythm

5 Taboos

6 Red Sea country

7 Journal

8 Edison's — Park

9 Summer shoe style

10 Deliberately

11 Tehran's country

12 Brady and Hanks

16 Bird feeder

20 Apr. addressee

23 Rx writers

24 Curved line

25 Transfer to another job, perhaps

27 Bat wood

29 Privy

30 Away from NNE

32 Small caves

34 Chased

37 Actor Brynner

39 Lectern locale

42 Drive away

44 Mini-plateaus

45 Paint layer

46 Roundish 'do

48 Coated with gold

49 Waffle brand

50 Crisp cookie

53 Caustic cleaner

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterdays answer 2-21

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ellen Page, 31; Jennifer Love Hewitt, 39; William Baldwin, 55; Kelsey Grammer, 63.

Happy Birthday: Added discipline will help you achieve your goals. Develop your ideas and set your plans in motion. Opportunities will unfold if you put your heart and soul into what you want to achieve. Help will be offered, and collaborating with someone new will open up doors that encourage you to expand your interests and reach for the stars. Your numbers are 6, 13, 20, 29, 32, 35, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Concentrate on your responsibilities on whatever job you are given. Doing the best you can with the least amount of conflict or interference should be your intent. Work quietly on your own and do the best you can. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Explore new possibilities. Be willing to learn and to try new things. Work in unison with those who have something unique to offer. Partnerships will help you advance. Share your plans with someone you love. Talks will encourage you to make a decision. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take your time. Trying to make personal or professional changes without doing enough research will backfire. A problem within a personal relationship will cause anger. Don't jump to conclusions or act out when the facts aren't verified. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll gain support and win favors if you share your thoughts and feelings. Being open and honest will help you gain respect and appeal to

the people you want to deal with more at work and in your personal life. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look over money matters and take care of your responsibilities. Keep your plans moderate and your spending within your means. Complaints should be taken seriously. Use your energy to improve your health and physical strength. Don't let anger take over. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Partnerships are highlighted. Whether you are engaging in a business or personal relationship, you will gain help from any joint venture you embark upon. Imagination coupled with reality will promote success. Romance will improve your life. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Plans to bring about changes that will make your life less demanding should be put into play. Don't expect everyone to agree with you, but make it clear that what you are doing is the best decision for you. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Opportunity will knock. Don't miss a chance to collaborate with someone who can show you the way or introduce you to people who can. Engaging in creative endeavors with others will pay off. Romance is in the stars. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Dig in and get things done. The busier you are, the less interference you'll encounter. Don't spend money on travel or people looking for a handout. Refuse to let someone from your past disrupt your reputation or future prospects. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make positive changes at home if you use your intelligence, innovation and physical ability to get things done. Greater stability will develop if you plan your actions and make your moves to please someone you love. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Discipline will be required when dealing with temptation. Don't fall into someone else's bad habits. Being smart with your money will help you avoid being caught in a no-win situation. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Strive to go above and beyond expectations. Opportunities will be offered, and your prompt acceptance will give you a chance to show how creative and forthcoming you can be. Partnerships look promising, and romance is highlighted. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are engaging, imaginative and popular. You are determined and reliable.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18						19	20			
		21				22				
23	24	25		26		27		28		29
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45	46					47			48	49
51				52	53					
54				55				56		
57				58				59		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★

2/21

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	5	2	4	3	8	9	1	6
6	9	8	2	1	7	5	3	4
3	4	1	5	6	9	8	2	7
1	3	5	9	7	2	4	6	8
2	6	4	8	5	1	3	7	9
9	8	7	6	4	3	2	5	1
5	2	9	1	8	6	7	4	3
4	7	6	3	9	5	1	8	2
8	1	3	7	2	4	6	9	5

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ITALY'S CALCIO STORICO Solution: 9 letters

L D S O P P O N E N T R E D S
Y L Y G G N I K C A H T N E L
N E A S R A S F R E F E R E E
A I L B T E I A N I N A I H C
H F P P T J E N S E U L B I Y
P U A I U O O N H Q E E T R O
I C H C G N O H S C E Y R U F
P W T O A L C F N F R U I L F
E D A M D N A H L S H A P E I
B L C T A T N O I O T M M S C
S A K L H S N O R N R A A S I
C K L G O R T C N D G E P E A
O L I L A T O E B N E O N A T
R F N C S W H W R E R R C C E
E K G S K W H I S T L I N G E

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Arno, Balls, Beef, Blues, Cannon, Captain, Chianina, City, Cloth, Cow, Epiphany, Field, Fight, Florence, Football, Gain, Game, Goals, Greens, Hacking, Handmade, Hurry, Kick, Lent, March, Master, Net, Officiate, Opponent, Order, Plays, Punching, Reds, Referee, Rules, Score, Sport, Squares, St. John's, Tackling, Team, Three, Throws, Trip, Whistling, Whites

Yesterday's Answer: Quilts

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 24 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(6) Landscaper and Grounds keeping worker, (4) Waiters and Waitress, (2) Truck Driver, (2) Administrative Assistant, (4) Cook, (4) Housekeeping Cleaner, (2) Massage Therapists, (2) Sewer and Tailors, (8) Maintenance and Repair Workers, (14) Houseworker, (2) Computer Support Specialist, (2) Accountant/Bookkeeper, minimum wage. Mail resume to MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. at P.O. Box 504053 Saipan, MP 96950

(1) Taekwondo Instructor, \$10.25/hr. (1) Administrative Assistant, minimum wage. Mail resume to Blue Dragon Martial Arts Corporation at P.O. Box 506310 Saipan, MP 96950

(3) Maintenance and Repair Worker, minimum wage. Mail resume to Elliott System, LLC at P.O. Box 5568 Saipan, MP 96950

(1) Operation Manager, \$9.75/hr and (3) Camera operators, Television, Video and Motion Picture, minimum wage. Mail resume to Saipan TV Productions PMB 272 Box 10000 Saipan MP, 96950

(4) Cook, minimum wage. Mail resume to Everest Kitchen Company PMB 1311 Box 10002 Saipan MP, 96950

(1) Accountant, (8) Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers, (4) Auto Diesel Mechanic-minimum wage. (1) Sales Manager, \$7.25-\$10.33/hr (1) Trucking & Maintenance Manager, \$7.25 to \$8. Mail resume to Cargo Express (Saipan), inc. P.O. Box 506391 Saipan MP 96950.

2 Accountant/ Bookkeeper, minimum wage. Mail resume to Burger & Comer P.C. at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950

(1) Building and Ground Maintenance repairer. Extensive experience and references required. Contact Tapochau estates at 483-9351.

1 Commercial Cleaner, 1 General Maintenance - 3-5 years experience with valid driver's license. Police Clearance required. Email resume to BFJ Corporation at cisco.cnmi@yahoo.com

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(1) COMPUTER SUPPORT TECHNICIAN

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**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP18-BECQ/DCRM-059

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 14, 2018 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**“ECONOMIC VALUATION STUDY OF THE CNMI WETLANDS
FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL & COASTAL QUALITY,
DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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AP source: JD Martinez, Red Sox agree to \$110M, 5-year deal

By RONALD BLUM
AP BASEBALL WRITER

J.D. Martinez and the Boston Red Sox have, at long last, come to an agreement.

The slow dance between the free agent slugger and the power-deficient team wrapped up Monday when they settled on a \$110 million, five-year contract.

A person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press about the deal, speaking on condition of anonymity because it was subject to a successful physical and had not been announced. Martinez has the right to opt out of the contract early and become a free agent again.

Speculation Martinez and the AL East champions would eventually wind up together had been swirling ever since he became a free agent last November.

Boston was seeking to add power to a lineup that hit an AL-low 168 home runs. The



Diamondbacks slugger J.D. Martinez gestures toward the camera as he stands in the dugout after hitting his fourth home run of the game in the ninth inning of a game against the Dodgers in Los Angeles on Sept. 4, 2017.

30-year-old Martinez has changed his swing to improve his launch angle and become one of the top home-run

threats in the majors.

The move helps the Red Sox counter the huge deal their biggest rivals pulled off in December. The New York Yankees, who finished two games behind Boston in the division last year, acquired NL MVP Giancarlo Stanton—who led the majors with 59 home runs—in a trade with Miami.

Martinez hit .303 with 45 homers and 104 RBIs last year for Detroit and Arizona, which acquired him on July 18 for three prospects. He had 29 homers and 65

RBIs in 62 games with the Diamondbacks, and hit a record-tying four home runs in a game.

Martinez started a combined 112 games in right field last year. He figures to become the primary designated hitter for the AL East champion Red Sox, which would turn Hanley Ramirez into a platoon player at first with Mitch Moreland.

The righty-swinging Martinez, who began his big league career with Houston in 2011, has played only sev-

en career games at Fenway Park, batting .444 (12 for 27) without an RBI. He figures to knock in plenty of runs when he takes aim at the Green Monster in left.

Martinez was among several prominent free agents still available over the weekend. Eric Hosmer is in the process of finalizing a \$144 million, eight-year deal with San Diego while third baseman Mike Moustakas and pitchers Jake Arrieta and Alex Cobb are among the stars looking for places to play.

MLB imposes stricter mound limits, defers on pitch clocks

NEW YORK (AP)—Major League Baseball has imposed stricter limits on mound visits by players in an effort to speed games but decided against 20-second pitch clocks for 2018.

After more than a year of negotiations, the Major League Baseball Players Association refused to agree to the changes but also signed an agreement that it will not oppose the rules.

The amendments to the playing rules announced Monday include a general limit of six mound visits per nine-inning game without a pitching change, whether by a manager, coach or player.

“We’ll have to just figure out a more non-verbal method of communication,” Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon said. “We’re not going to be texting, I promise you that, even if we could.”

Detroit catcher James McCann objected.

“Some people may say that a catcher visiting with the pitcher isn’t a big deal,” he said, “but what if you’ve already had five mound visits and you got your closer on the mound in the ninth inning, and you’re facing the three and four hitters with guys on second and third, bases loaded? You can’t go out and talk to him?”

To assuage players’ concerns about sign stealing, MLB will install new telephone lines from dugouts to video replay rooms. MLB said the lines will be monitored, and a person familiar with the

decision told The Associated Press all conversations on the lines will be recorded. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because that detail was not announced.

“If you’re really like stealing signs from up top with the video and transmitting them somehow in that nanosecond you’d be more concerned,” Maddon said. “Otherwise, it’ll just be entertaining. You don’t even have to do that, you could run up and down the tunnel.”

MLB has the right to make playing rules changes absent an agreement with one year notice and made proposals during the 2016-17 offseason for a pitch clock and more restrictions on mound visits.

“My strong preference is to continue to have ongoing dialogue with players on this topic to find mutually acceptable solutions,” Commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement.

Union head Tony Clark noted the sides technically did not reach a deal.

“The focus on mound visits and/or the level of commitment on the other pieces simply didn’t focus enough attention on the areas the players wanted to address - so no agreement was reached,” he said in an email to the AP.

“While a number of pitchers will acknowledge that some mound visits are unnecessary, a limitation combined with what the experience has been of late in regard to technologically enhanced sign stealing means that there are concerns about how this will work ... or not work.”

Until now, the only restriction on mound visits was a second visit to the same pitcher during an inning by a manager or coach resulted in an automatic pitching change. The number of visits by catchers during games has increased in recent years, contributing to the average time of a nine-inning game stretching to a record 3 hours, 5 minutes last season, up from 2:46 in 2005.

Under the new rule, each team would get an additional mound visit without a pitching change for each extra inning. Trips will not count against the limit following an offensive substitution, to check on potential injuries or to clean spikes on wet fields. If a team is out of visits, the plate umpire may give permission for additional trips by the catcher in the event of a cross-up on pitch signals.

MLB is eliminating the rules guaranteeing eight warmup pitches before a half-inning in an effort to keep between-inning breaks to 2:05 for most games, 2:25 for regular-season games on national television and 2:55 for tiebreaker and postseason games. There are exceptions relating to injury and if the pitcher or catcher finishes the previous half inning on base, at bat or on deck.

Last year, a system of fines was not enforced until a player was 20 seconds over the inning-break limit. Players have been fined for pace violations in each of the last three seasons, but individual names have not been made public.

Moreland, Red Sox gird for Stanton, Judge, grid-like Yankees

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP)—As soon as Giancarlo Stanton touched down with their main rivals, the Boston Red Sox were eager to take on New York—the Yankees, or maybe even the Jets and Giants.

“They’re fielding a football team out there is kind of what I was thinking,” Red Sox first baseman Mitch Moreland said. “They’re running a two tight-end set. They’ve got some big boys over there.”

The 6-foot-6 Stanton, who topped the majors in home runs and was the NL MVP last year, joins a lineup with 6-7 Aaron Judge, the AL homer leader. The Yankees got Stanton in a trade with the Miami Marlins in December.

“Job well done,” Red Sox owner John Henry said Monday on the first day of full-squad workouts.

Entering last season’s camp, Boston was tabbed as the AL East favorite after landing one of the biggest prizes in ace lefty Chris Sale during the winter meetings. That prompted Yankees general manager Brian Cashman to reference another sport: “Boston’s like

the Golden State Warriors now in baseball,” he said.

The Red Sox went on to win their second straight division title. Hours after Henry spoke, word spread that Boston had reached agreement with slugger J.D. Martinez on a \$110 million, five-year contract.

“We’re not conceding first place to anybody,” chairman Tom Werner said, earlier in the day.

“I think it’s good for the rivalry. The Yankees have a very strong team and we have a very strong team, too,” he said. “If we’re healthy, I think we have the best pitching staff; starting pitching, ending with (Craig) Kimbrel. I think we’ve got the best pitching staff in the American League.”

Some players say they’re looking forward to the challenge that might spice up the rivalry.

“It doesn’t matter who you’re facing,” reliever Matt Barnes said. “You’ve got a guy who was the MVP and a guy that hit 50 home runs or however many Judge hit. You start throwing balls ... and missing spots, it doesn’t matter, it’s the

big leagues. They’re going to hit balls in the gap and balls over the fence.”

But the right-hander paused, glanced a few lockers to his right and offered what defense the Red Sox might have against the Yankees’ added power. Boston is counting on strong pitching in Sale and two former AL Cy Young winners—David Price and Rick Porcello, and solid closer work from Kimbrel to go along with a bounce-back year by knuckleballer Steven Wright, a 2016 All-Star.

“This starting staff is two Cy Young winners and Chris Sale, and two more All-Stars,” Barnes said.

Center fielder Jackie Bradley Jr. said the Yankees’ addition brings another test.

“I’m always excited to compete against some of the best players in the world. That’s what we all signed up for,” he said. “Is this team good enough? Only time will tell.”

Said Henry: “We’re defending American League East champions and I feel like we’ve done what we needed to do to improve this team. I think we have the right team.”

Curry would love to captain Team Curry again in 2019

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Stephen Curry would love to be an NBA All-Star Game captain again next year, especially since the game will be in his hometown of Charlotte.

LeBron James would be OK with someone else taking his place, depending on who the top two vote-getters are, although his draft prowess led to Team LeBron beating Team Stephen 148-145 Sunday night.

And there's a definite appetite for the NBA to televise the captains' draft rather than conduct it clandestinely like it was this year.

"Televise it," said DeMar DeRozan of Team Stephen. "Give the people what they want to see. I think everybody wants to see it. At the end of the day, every single person that gets picked, you are an All-Star, so it doesn't matter where you really go, so I think televise it."

Players raved about the new format of having captains draft the teams rather than the traditional format of East vs. West.

And James finally revealed his draft order: Kevin Durant, Anthony Davis, his former Cleveland teammate Kyrie Irving and DeMarcus Cousins, who missed the game due to a season-ending injury.

"I know who I like watching and I had a draft board. I had a process," James said. "Some of it went according to plan. A couple of them fell through, but I was satisfied and happy with the guys that I got."

James' original roster was dramatically altered by injuries to Cousins, John Wall, Kristaps Porzingis and Kevin



Love, who all missed the game.

"Even with the four guys that got injured we were able to get four new guys that came in and played well for us."

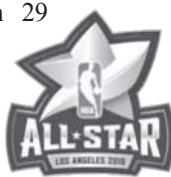
James was named the game's MVP after making the go-ahead, finger-roll layup with 34.5 seconds left and

scoring a game-high 29 points.

Where did he hide his draft board?

"Ain't none of your business. You're going too far, man," James said with a laugh.

Curry didn't divulge his draft order.



"As the draft kind of unfolded, you start to game plan around positions," he said. "For me, I tried to get the best shooters. It was kind of cool to see both teams come together as me and LeBron were picking. So that part, that vibe of the

format and having two guys select from your peers will be a fun show as it unfolds year after year."

The All-Star draft led to interesting dynamics on court.

Curry chose his Golden State teammates Klay Thompson and Draymond Green, but the trio had to play

AP
NFL player Odell Beckham Jr., left, of the New York Giants stands with Team Stephen's Stephen Curry, of the Golden State Warriors, during the second half of an NBA All-Star basketball game against Team LeBron, Sunday, Feb. 18, 2018, in Los Angeles.

against Durant. James also chose Oklahoma City duo Westbrook and Paul George to play along with Kyrie Irving, who forced a trade away from James in Cleveland just last summer.

Irving and James had no obvious friction, even laughing and joking on the bench. Neither did Durant and Westbrook, who broke up in 2016 when Durant left Oklahoma City for Golden State.

Durant helped James smother Curry in the final seconds to prevent him from getting off a potential tying shot.

And then there was Toronto's Dwane Casey coaching Team LeBron against Raptors star DeRozan.

"I think that having the captains and selecting the guys and being able to mix them up gave it a more authentic feel of kind of what us players want to be part of in an All-Star Game," Irving said.

"It's great to play with guys in your conference, East-West. But when you get a chance to have Russell Westbrook, Paul George, and you know they're teammates already, and then you mix them with myself and Kemba (Walker), and LeBron, and you could see the mix and it just worked."

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

NFL intrigue goes beyond the quarterbacks



The NFL's offseason features plenty of intrigue beyond where Kirk Cousins and dozens of other quarterbacks will land.

As the Philadelphia Eagles enjoy the city's first NFL title since 1960 and the New England Patriots smart over their failure to win a sixth ring, 30 other teams are plotting to unseat the conference kings.

That appears to be a tougher task in the AFC than in the NFC, where the Vikings, Saints and Rams all are on the rise and the Pack promises to get back with Aaron Rodgers under center again.

DeShaun Watson's comeback from a torn ACL could put the Texans in the mix along with the resurgent Jaguars to wrest the Lamar Hunt Trophy from the grasp of Tom Brady, Bill Belichick and Josh McDaniels, whose reneging on the Colts coaching job reignited the animosity between

Indy and New England.

At league headquarters, Roger Goodell wants to see the mystery of the NFL's catch rule solved.

Five cities are building their case to host the league's annual draft in 2019 or 2020. This year's extravaganza will be held April 26-28 in Jerry's backyard at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

On Tuesday, teams can designate franchise or transition players and in a week they'll all be at the NFL combine in Indianapolis to take a gander at this year's top college prospects.

Free agency starts March 14 with the new league year and that's when the QB dominoes will start to fall.

Teams that hired a new coach this year—the Cardinals, Bears, Lions, Colts, Giants, Raiders and Titans—get to begin offseason workouts April 2. Everyone else starts two weeks later.

While baseballs soar and basketballs bounce over the next few months, some story lines that will provide a football fix:

KIRK COUSINS' NEXT DESTINATION: With Washington acquiring Alex Smith from the Kansas City Chiefs, Cousins will say goodbye to the Redskins and hello to the really big bucks. The Broncos, Jets and Cardinals could jockey to see who will pay Cousins \$30 million annually.

JOHN ELWAY'S NEXT COMEBACK: The Broncos boss wants to quit fretting over the position he knows the most about. Landing Cousins or one of the top college QBs will allow him to move on from Paxton Lynch, Brock Osweiler and Trevor Siemian, who all started during Denver's 5-11 face-plant.

WHICH QB WILL GO NO. 1? Teams that miss out on one of

the prized free agents can look to the draft, which features Baker Mayfield, Josh Allen, Sam Darnold and Josh Rosen, who are all expected to be selected in the top 10 picks. But in which order? Lamar Jackson and Mason Rudolph could join them as first-rounders.

WILL ANDREW LUCK PLAY? Some believe the impetus for McDaniels backing out of the Colts job was the uncertainty surrounding QB Andrew Luck, who missed all of last season following shoulder surgery. Luck hopes to resume his career in 2018, but he still hasn't thrown a football since October

DID INDY LUCK OUT? McDaniels' brush-off led the Colts to hiring ex-Eagles OC Frank Reich, who got glowing endorsements from former team president Bill Polian, ex-coach Tony Dungy and former

QB Peyton Manning. Reich figured to be atop the list of hot head coaching candidates next winter, so this was a jump-start.

HOW WILL RAIDERS MESH? Last summer, Oakland QB Derek Carr signed a five-year, \$125 million contract. This winter, Jon Gruden signed a 10-year, \$100 million deal to return to the sideline from the broadcast booth. Now, it's time for Gruden and Carr to make it work together.

WILL PATS DEFY TIME? Brady and Belichick failed to win a sixth ring when the Patriots lost the Super Bowl to the Eagles. But McDaniels couldn't leave the soon-to-be 41-year-old QB coming off an MVP season. Opponents continue to wonder when Brady will hit that wall and quit being so frustratingly good.

WHO WILL LEAD MINNESOTA? The Vikings are in an odd situation at quarterback. They have an abundance in Case Keenum, who was a suburb fill-in with Teddy Bridgewater and Sam Bradford hurt. They're both getting healthy but none of the three are under contract for next season.

WHAT'S THE PANTHERS' FUTURE? While former U.S. attorney Mary Jo White looks into claims of sexual and racial misconduct in the workplace against Panthers owner Jerry Richardson, potential buyers are exploring purchasing the team. Goodell says he wants the team to remain in Charlotte under the new owners.

WHO WILL WOW NFL? Denver, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Nashville and Cleveland-Canton are hoping to land the NFL draft in either 2019 or 2020. Representatives for each site will offer presentations before the final selections are made in May at the NFL spring meetings in Atlanta.

Ganacias is FilTaga's February Ace

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dan Ganacias has secured his spot on the FilTaga Golfers Association Ace of Aces tournament next year after ruling the February Ace of the Month held last Sunday at the Marianas Country Club.

Ganacias had a tough out-

ing at the front nine with a 42 but recovered with a 37 at the back that gave him a gross score of 79. The 10-handicapper finished with a 69 for six-shot win over Vic Romana.

Romana, who has a nine handicap, finished with a 75. He had rounds of 46 and 38 for a gross score of 84.



Mariana Resort & Spa acting general manager William Retardo ended up with a 76 net. He shot a 38 and 42 for an 80 gross and with a four handicap earned him with the final score. MCC operations manager



Ganacias

Thomson Palik was the par-3 closest to the pin at Nos. 8 and 12, while FilTaga board directors Ruben Avendano and Mike Cruz each duplicated the feat at Nos. 6 and 16.

Ganacias now joins FilTaga 2017 Ace of Aces champion Jess Yumul

in claiming a spot for next year's finals after the latter clinched the January monthly tournament held at the Kingfisher Golf Links a few weeks ago.

Yumul, FilTaga's 2017 November Ace winner, ended up with a 66 net after the 23 handicapper's 89 gross.

For FilTaga membership inquiries and other informa-

tion, call Cruz at 483-7171 or Rene Batallones at 898-3367 or Larry Pascual at 287-1233.

NMI

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He added that they plan to work on some of the youngsters to help the development of weightlifting in the Commonwealth.

"That's why some of us are going to do developmental training with Elias Rangamar and Preston Basa. Joey Tudela and I have committed to do that and help out. We're looking for the next generation of weightlifters," said Davis.

Bonnylynn Cruz, who previously represented the CNMI in a number of weightlifting and CrossFit tournaments in Guam, supported Davis and Saturday's event was nerve-wracking for her.

"I was excited for this, since this is first time that we have this kind of event. It was also nerve-wracking for me after seeing that I was the only senior against these young kids," Cruz said with a laugh.

"The youth who participated has a lot of potential. The sport of weightlifting has a lot of potential to grow here in the CNMI. I grew up in playing sports, I just wished that we had this before," added the former Polynesian dancer.

Cruz has also paddled for the CNMI in the Micronesian Cup three times and has won bronze in the women's 69-kilogram division of the 2015 Micronesia Weightlifting Invitational in Guam.

Youth athletes Cassandra Camacho, Halle Kenty, Jamie Pangelinan, Lia Rangamar, and Eleina Santos joined Cruz in the women's division of the qualifying event.

Cruz had lifts of 52kgs in the snatch, and 77kg in the clean, and jerk for a total weight of 129kgs.

Virtue, Moir win ice dance for 3rd career Olympic gold medal

GANGNEUNG, South Korea (AP)—Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir were the last couple to leave the ice after their warmup early Tuesday, the Canadian ice dancers soaking in every second before their final Olympic performance.

They sure made it a memorable one.

After training partners Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron broke the world record with a flawless free skate, Virtue and Moir took the ice one last time with a dazzling, dramatic interpretation of "Moulin Rouge." Every movement was synchronized, every element raw and emotional, the only question left inside Gangneung Ice Arena was whether it would be enough.

The score: a personal-best 122.40 points, and a record 206.07 total, pushing them past their French rivals' score of 205.28 and making them the most decorated figure skaters in Olympic history. "We didn't know we had won, that's for sure," Moir said with a laugh. "We really committed to our training because we knew we'd have to be better than we've ever been."

They were better than anybody has ever been.

It was the second gold medal of the Pyeongchang Games for Virtue and Moir, who were instrumental in helping Canada win the team event. It was also their third gold overall after win-



ning their home Olympics in Vancouver in 2010, and their fifth total silver at the 2014 Sochi Games.

They briefly retired after that disappointment, seemingly content with their place in history, only to decide a couple years ago to make one more run at Olympic glory.

Now, they're being called the greatest ice dancers ever.

"I mean, it's incredibly flattering," Virtue said, "but it's hard to wrap our heads around so close to the event. We're grateful for the legends that came before us and really paved the way."

Virtue and Moir's medal total broke a tie with Russia's

Evgeni Plushenko and Sweden's Gillis Grafstrom for the most in Olympic figure skating, and their golden haul matched the record shared by Grafstrom, Sonja Henie of Norway and Irina Rodnina of the Soviet Union.

"They're a once-in-a-generation talent," said Patrice Lauzon, who along with his wife, Marie-France Dubreuil, coaches the Canadians and French at their school in Montreal.

American siblings Maia and Alex Shibutani won the bronze medal with a near-flawless free skate to "Paradise" by Coldplay. Their total of 192.59 points made

up the two-hundredths of a point they trailed teammates Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue, leaving them fourth.

"It was amazing to finally have that Olympic moment," Alex Shibutani said. "We didn't really think about results. If we did the best we could, we were going to be satisfied."

The third American team, Madison Chock and Evan Bates, also was within sight of the podium after the short dance. But a rare and stunning fall entering their combination spin was enough to damage an otherwise beautiful performance to "Imagine" that still drew an emotional applause.

Meanwhile, the race for the gold medal came down to two



PyeongChang 2018



TANHOLDINS

From Page 28

is at the bottom of the team standings with its 0-0-2 mark.

Meanwhile, MP United joined TanHoldings on top of the leaderboard after the former shut down Matansa in the other match in the division, 6-0.

Stella McCallion, who delivered four goals in MP United's win over Southern United in the opening week, 8-3, picked up where she left off, registering four against Matansa. She got her first in the 16th minute and had two straight when she scored in the 54th and 58th.

Maury Zon Tybaco chipped in two, posting her pair of goals in the 61st and 67th minute, while Audrey Castro hit the board in the 50th, as MP United got its offense going in the second half.

BOYS U18 MP United 7, Kanoa 0

MP United also eased its way to a season-debut victory in the boys U18 division after blanking Kanoa in the second game at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Sunjoon Tenorio had a hat trick in his first game this season and drew enough support from his teammates to give

MP United a good start. Tenorio scored in the 20th, 68th, and 69th minute. Skyler Poon, Dai Podziewski, Alex Park, and Oliver Lee added one goal each to foil Kanoa's bid for a second win. Kanoa prevailed in its first game after downing National Development Academy, 4-1.

Matansa 5, NDA 0

Matansa handed NDA another defeat and bounced back from its 0-7 loss to TanHoldings.

Matansa and NDA played in the curtain-raiser in the division last weekend with the former drawing goals from four different players to enter

BEARS

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and scrimmage.

The Bears, the 2016 SBL champions, were ruthless against the Indians behind the pitching duo of Lizama and Dela Cruz that was backed by their fielders' relentless defense.

Lizama pitched three solid innings giving up two hits with two strikeouts and a walk while Dela Cruz tossed a one-hitter while retiring one batter with no walk in closing out in the five-inning shortened match.

Palacios went 4-for-5 with four RBIs, including a two-RBI single in the top of the fifth where the Bears had already wrapped up the contest. All of his four hits are all singles while also reaching home

plate one time in the Bears' seven-run second inning.

Bears catcher Virgil Sechar-midal had three RBIs and three despite going 1-for-4. He struck out in the second and had a sacrifice fly in the third to bring in Kiku Lizama, who got on base on a bunt single.

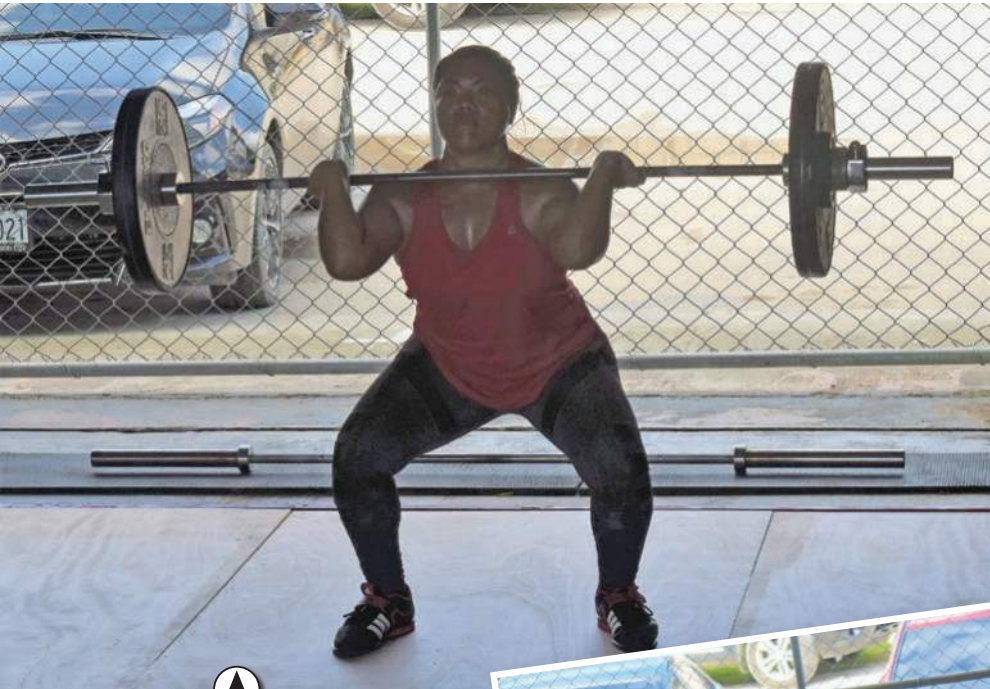
Henry Lizama went 2-for-2 with a two-RBI single in the Bears' seven-run second inning.

The Indians' bullpen—composed of Ben Lizama, Richard Atalig, and M.J. Sakisat—was tagged with a combined 19 hits with four strikeouts and seven walks.

The Bears only committed two errors the entire game against the 15 of the Indians. The Bears also scored six times on errors by the Indians with one by a Ben Lizama wild pitch.

CNMI Weightlifting Federation Qualifying Event

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Bonnielynn Cruz in one of her three attempts in the clean and jerk in last Saturday's qualifying for the CNMI national weightlifting team that is set to compete in this year's Micronesian Games.



Joey Tudela in one of his three attempts in the clean and jerk.



Jamie Pangelinan was one of three youth athletes that participated at the Latte Built 24-Hour Fitness and Nutrition Center in San Jose.



A participant was successful in one of her three attempts in the snatch.



A junior participant concentrates after his lift in the snatch.



Josh Mateo concentrates after a successfully lift in the snatch.



A participant looks at the timer after her lift in the clean and jerk.



A participant in the senior men's prepares to lift in the clean and jerk.



AP source: JD
Martinez, Red Sox
agree to \$110M,
5-year deal
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Curry would
love to captain
Team Curry
again in 2019
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28 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Back-to-back for TanHoldings

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TanHoldings Football Club got win No. 2 after outclassing Southern United FC, 3-1, in their girls U16 division game in the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field.

Judy Ann Andebor powered TanHoldings to its second victory in as many games after completing a hat trick against Southern United. Andebor started her string of goals in the ninth minute, while the last two were recorded in the



16th and 40th. TanHoldings, which defeated Paire FC in its season debut on Feb. 10, 4-1, made it back-to-back despite surrendering an early goal to Southern United. Marinel Joy Falalimpa drew first blood in the match after finding her target in the sixth minute, however her squad went cold after that, allowing TanHoldings to get the win.

With its 2-0-0 win-draw-loss record, TanHoldings took the early lead in the six-team field, while Southern United

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
TanHoldings Football Club's Judy Ann Andebor is sandwiched by two Southern United FC defenders during their girls U16 division game in the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field.

Bears shut out Indians in SBL



JON PEREZ

Vince Sablan Jr., right, prepares to run to home plate while C.K. Bears third baseman Shakobe Rangamar looks on in the last inning of their Monday night's game in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios baseball field.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Angel Palacios had four RBIs while Jose Lizama and Ray Dela Cruz shared pitching duties in the C.K. Bears' 21-0 shutout win over the Indians in Monday night's game in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios baseball field.

It was the second lopsided game early in the season after GSM's 18-0 crushing of the Ballistics last week. All 10 teams had already played their first games.

Last year's finalists Fal-

cons and the Blue Jays were still playing as of press time with both teams looking for their second win after beating their respective opponents during opening week.

Today's 6:30pm game will have GSM also looking for its second win against the Outlaws, who dropped a 13-2 decision against the Blue Jays last week.

No matches will be played tomorrow and Friday because a visiting South Korean baseball team had scheduled to use the field for practice

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'NMI has potential for weightlifting'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Weightlifting Fed-

eration president John Davis believes the sport has strong poten-



tial at the grassroots level in the CNMI, especially after seeing some

weightlifters for the first time in last Saturday's qualifying event hosted by the local federation.

The CWF held its first-ever qualifying event last Saturday at the Latte Built 24-Hour Fitness and Nutrition Center. The event is part of CWF's efforts of fielding a CNMI team that will compete in the 9th Micronesian Games in the Federated States of Micronesia.

CWF has yet to make a final announcement of the CNMI team that will be competing in the Micro Games, set from July 15 to 27 in Yap State.

Davis told *Saipan Tribune* that they saw a lot of potential in some newcomers, especially the six men and women youth athletes. "We've got some good athletes that we discovered here. Some young people that have raw talent that could be developed."

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JON PEREZ

Bonnielyn Cruz, right, joins the other five junior and senior women's athletes that participated in last Saturday's qualifying event by the CNMI Weightlifting Federation at the Latte Built 24-Hour Fitness and Nutrition Center.